

The Knight of the Swanne.

Here beginneth the History of a noble Helias knyght
of the Swanne, newly translated out of frenche in to
Englyshe at the instygacion of the Wylliant & Illustre
ous Prynce Lorde Edward Duke of Buckyngham.



❖ Prologue of the Translatour.



Ere tably it is that all vertues and noble en-
tencions ben nouryshed & engendred in the
hertes and courages of gentyl persons, the
whiche causeth them to encline to all perfec-
cyon of bounte. Endeuering the to hearte, &
and auance the glorious renouene of theyr foregore,
predecessours replenished with þ grace and lone of god
Amonge all other endeued with bountie and noblesse i
hygh degne and Illustrious pryncer my lord Edward
by the grace of god Duke of Buckingham Erle of Her-
forde, Stafford, and of Northampton desyringe cordo-
ally to encrease and augment the name and fame of they
as were relucet in vertuous feates and triumphante
actes of chynalry. And to encourage and styze every lus-
ty and genell herte by the exemplificacyon of the same
haupng a goodli booke of the highe and miraculours his-
tory of a famous & puyssant kinge named Dyrant some-
time reynynge in the parties of beyonde the sea haupng
to his wife a noble Lady of whome he conceiued sixe son-
nes and a Doughter & chylde of them at one onely tym
at whose byrthe echone of them had a chayne of Syluer
at their neckes the whiche were all tourned by the pro-
uydence of god into whyte Swannes (saue one) of þ whi-
che this present Hystory compyled, named Belyas the
knight of the swanne of whome linially is dyscended my
sayde Lozde. The whiche ententis to haue þ sayde his-
tory moze amply and vnyuersally known in thys hys

ratyfe



natiss countrie as it is in other, hath of hye hie bountie be
 some of his faithful & trusti seruautes cohozted mi may
 ster wythin the worde to put the said vertuous hyeoz in
 pinte. And he as willing and glad to contente accomplishe
 & obey the gracious mynde and pleasure, hath sought and
 found a true approued copie, enpainted and corrected in
 frensch language, at whose instigacio & stirrig I Robert
 Copland, haue me applied moienig the helpe of god to re
 duce and translate it into our matetnal & vulgare englissh
 tonge, after the capacite and rudenesse of my weake enten
 demet. Befeeceing my sayd lord & consequently al them y
 redeth oz hereth it red to take no regard to y^e liguag mis
 orned and rude, for wythout hygh style & enerue industry
 I haue al onely veruated & folowed mine auctour as ny
 ghe as I coude wth y^e p^{ro}foundite of good herte, and where
 as on faute bi me oz w^{ro}ng I imp^{re}ssio be found intelligi
 bly after their science to correct and amed in pardonig al
 ygnoraunce. In the whiche doyng I shalbe oblygate &
 boude to prais for the to almighty God that he geue vnto
 them his realme celestall vnto y^e which we al mai come
 Amen.

Explicit prologus.

Here begynneth the table of this p^{re}sent booke.

How the kinge Pyeron of Aylefozt hadde to wife and
 spouse Matadzie for that she was ryche and endowed of
 greate erthely goodes. y^{wh}ich betwene them had a sone
 named Ogant. Ca. primo

How king Ozant chased a harte so swyftely þ he losse
his folke, & came to a scētayne wher as he speke with
sayze Beatryce whom he chose to be his wyfe. Ca. ii.

How þ king Ozrāt at his returning fro the chase bro
ght with him the sayz Beatryce for to espouse and take
her to his wyfe. Ca. iii.

How the myghte king Oziant espoused þ noble queen
Beatryce, the which conceyued of him. xi. sonnes and a
doughter at one burden. Ca. iiii.

How king Oziant tooke leue of the noble Queen Bea
trice his spouse. And how þ false & peruerce Matabzun
composed and machined with another matrone to com
mitte crime and treason towarde the saide noble Queen
Beatryce. Ca. v.

How the Queene Beatryce childed naturally. vi. sayze
sonnes and a doughter, þ which in theyr birthe brought
wthone of the a chayne of Siluer miraculously wrought
at theyr neckes. Ca. vi.

How Markes bare þ. vii. children into forest, & leste
them on his mantell. Ca. vii.

How the. vii. children were founde in the forest by a de
uoute heremite named Heliag. Ca. viii.

How þ good and deuout hermite prayed to our Lorde
for the ayd and succour. of the. vii. pooze children, whose
prayers were exalted, Ca. ix.

How the. vii. children were myraculouslie nourished
of a white gote set by goddes grace. And how matabzune
accused falsly the good Queene Beatrice to king Oziant
her spouse. Ca. x.

How king Ozvant assembled his counceple to knowe
by what māer he ought to intreate þ Queene his wife
wzor

Wozongfully and wythout cause was iniuried of the per-
uerce. Matabzune mother of kinge Dzyant. Ca. xi.

How the deuout hermyte Helyas baptizd the. vii. lile
chyliden in his hermytage. Ca. xii.

How one of the yemen of þ hunt of the peruerce Matab-
bzune foude the. vii. chyliden in the sayd fozeft, the which
tolde of them to Matabzune. Ca. xiii.

How at the commaundement of Matabzune an houn-
des man named Sauary came for to flea þ. vii. lile chil-
den of kinge Dzyant vnknewe in the fozeft, where as
they were transmued into swannes. Ca. xiiii.

How þ good hermyte Helyas returned into his hermita-
ge w hys godson one of kyng Dzyant sonnes, & founde
not the other chyliden, transmued into swanes. Ca. xv.

How þ false & peruerce Matabzune made wickedli to
accuse by an butrue knyght named Makayze: hat þ no-
ble queene Beatrice had forfayted w a dogge. Ca. xvi.

How the Angell of god annoüced to the deuout hermy-
te Helyas that the. vii. chyliden that he had founde in the
fozeft were kinge Dzyantes chyliden, & that he shold sed
ponge Helyas to proue the trouthe. Ca. xvii.

How kinge Dzyant sent for the good queen Beatrice
his wyfe for to make expose to her þ wherof she was ac-
cused, and cōdempne her to death. And how Helyas hys
sonne aryued at þ palays of his father for to defende and
succour his mother from death, Ca. xviii.

How kyng Dzyant commaunded to make armours
for his sonne Helyas to fight against Makayze, & after
went to the good hermite in the fozeft. Ca. xix.

How the noble kinge Dzyant deliuered out of prysen the
good queene Beatrice his wife, and after ordeined to his

sonne helyas all thyng to fight with Hakayze. Ca. xi.
How helyas the noble knight of y swanne vainquis
hed and ouercame the fals knight Hakirae in campe of
batayle. Ca. xxi.

How the wicked knight Hakayze cōfessed openly be
foze the kinge and the queene and al y people y treason
done to the sayd queene and her seven childzen. And how
he was shamefully hanged as a fals reproued traytour
on the galowes. Ca. xxi.

How the noble kinge Dyant dyd sende for the golde
smyth y which brought y other spue chayns & the cupe
that he hadde deteyned and recyted all the myracle done
wyth them. Ca. xxi.

How the fals Matabryne made al the keepers of y pry
son so dronken that they dyd slepe whyles she fled awaye
And how y. of the swannes retourned into theyr fourme
humayne. Ca. xxi.

How kynge Dyāt gaue his realme to his noble sonne
helyas wherfore he made to crowne him king honoura
bly and then gaue him leue to go take his mother Matab
ryne in the castel of Maubryant, and there he made to
brenne her in a great fyre. Ca. xxv.

How helyas toke leue of kynge Dyant his father &
of queene Wentryce his mother for to solow the aduētur
of his brother the swāne that appered on the river before
a sheppe. Ca. xxvi.

How the swanne brother of kinge helyas cōduited y
sayd shep wherin helyas was tyl they came to the cytie
of Armaie. Ca. xxvi.

How y tel. of Fraikebourke made wroglfully to come
and appere by Justyce Clarpele Ducelle of Boulpon at
Armaie

Tabula.

Aymaye wyllynge to vburpe her of her duchy in gynn-
ge fals vnderstandynge to Otton Emperour of Aymayne
the whiche helde the courte of his parlyment at the sayd
citty of Aymaie. Ca. xxviii.

How Helyas the noble knyght of the swanne arriued at
the citty of Aymaie for to defende the right of y noble du-
chesse of Boulpon whome the Emperour receyued with
great honoure. Ca. xxix.

How Helyas the vertuous knyght of the swanne dyd
fght agaynst the ctyle of frankebourke the which he con-
quered and slewe in the fiede. Ca. xxx.

How the noble knyght Helyas wedded y doughter of
of duchesse of Boulpon. Ca. xxxi.

How the noble Duke of Boulpon lest hys lorde by cause
hys wyfe disobeyed his comaundement, and after hys bro-
ther the swanne brought hym to Aymaye to the emper-
our Otton. Ca. xxxii.

How the noble duchesse of Boulpon complayned ptes-
ouly to the emperour for the departinge of her good hus-
bande Helyas. Ca. xxxiii.

How Helyas arpyued at Aymaie where he was good-
ly receyued of the emperour. Ca. xxxiiii.

How Helyas the noble knyght of the swanne dydde res-
tourne into the citty of Wylefort within the shippe of his
brother the swanne. The whiche myraculoufly & by the
dyuine wyl of our lorde retourned befoze his parentes &
freendes into his fyrst founne and naturall cite of huma-
nyte. Ca. xxxv.

How queene Beatrixe made great Joy of her sone y
was retourned to his right founne. Ca. xxxvi.

How y noble Helyas tooke leue of his parente & freen-
des des

des, and made himselfe Relygious there as he was now
vpl hed with the good hermyte, where he made to buyld
a Castell lyke to that of Boulion. Ca. xxxvi

How the payntant & vertuous emperour Octon espou
sed the erle of Boleyn to the sayre ydain daughter of y no
ble knyght of the swanne Helyas. And how after y drem
that he had y aungel of god annoūced to her y he should
conceyue and bere thzee noble knightes. Ca. xxxvii

How the duchesse of Boulion sent mani squiers & mes
sagers ouer all countreis and regyons for to finde her no
ble husbnde Helyas knight of the swanne, Ca. xxxix.

How the abbot of Saincteron and y squyre Donce de
parted fro Rome at theyr returning fro the holl sepa'ce
And syth by the wyll of god they aryued at the new castel
of Boulion. Ca. xl.

How the squyre Donce aryued at Boulion for to bere re
dinges to the duchesse of Helyas knight of the swanne the
which at that time was become religious. Ca. xli.

How ydain the noble duchesse of Boulion endoctrined
her thzee sonnes Godfrey, Baudwyn, & Custace i all ma
ner of good operacions, vertues, & maners. Ca. xlii.

How the thzee noble bzyethern Godfrey, Baudwyn, &
Custace appropyed and vled thei all maner of noole ga
mes, and all ayes of worthynesse. Ca. xliii

¶ Explicit tabula.



Knight of the Swanne

¶ How þe king Pieron of Lilefort hade to wife a spouse
 Matabune for that she was riche, & endowed of great
 erthly goodes. The which betwene them had a sonne
 named Driant. Ca. .i.



¶ Rede in the auncient and autentike
 cronicles þe somtime ther was a no-
 ble king in lilefort, other wise named
 he Strong yle a muche riche lande, þe
 which kinge had to name Pieron.

And he took to wife a spouse Matabu-
 ne þe daughter of an other king puissant and riche
 meruailously. Bi þe reaso of which mariage was made
 and accorded peace betwene two mightye kinges, the
 which longe time before ha ben aduersaries and ene-
 mies

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mes one a nother by mortall warre. But as than a by þ
treatie of mariage was pacified the said disorde. Now
be it neuerthelesse that the said kinge Hieron him accor
ded to take to wife the said Macabrie for that she had
great possession of lands a other infinite riches wher
by as the story saith the mariage was made be couetise
se and not by loue wherof many harmes grewe, and all
bi þ said macabrie þ wzougefully sew disorde betwen
kinge Orian, his wife and his children. The whiche
possible came by godes wil for þ the said mariage was
not cordialli made as is said, oz for a more meritorious
welth, as sith happened to the high praise of god a his
holv faithe, for finably al turned to honour by the grace
of þ hye god that ofren approueth them þ he leueth sen
ding them some aduercites first. For he hath no merite
towarde god to haue any swetnes if first he taste no bit
ternes of hert, as saint Paule saith. By many triblati
ons we must entree into þ realme of god. But finally our
lorde resisteth þ peruers, in giuing his glozy to þ meke
as in this story appereth. For al the punicion fel on ma
cabrie finably þ had caused al þ yll. And thei that had
ben iniully vilipended were miraculoussly exalted. and it
is oftē sene þ mariage made by couetise coeth to no per
feccion of goodnesse. For if the cōiuntions be not made bi
loue as god ordeined often of cometh greuous desolactō
as did of her, lyke as this story sheweth here after

After the mariage of kinge Hieron a Macabrie
as þ maner is, they had betwene the a sonne no
ble a wise named Orian, the which after þ dyscease of
his father abode w his mother as heir of þ realme, whi
che he succeeded a gouerned peashabli wout to be married

Now

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How king Driant chased a hart so swiftly & he lost
his folke and came to a fountaine where as he spake to
saire Beatrice whome he chose to be his wife. Ca. ii.



After that the noble kinge Driant was grow-
nen in age, in force, and prudence, on a day he
advised him for to go to hunt. And when al
things were redy and he comen in a foreste
he at the praye and pursuite of his Greyhoundes reised
a great harte, wherente he toke so greate pleasure & he
chased him so swiftly & his folke might not folowe tyl
he turned in plaine feeld where as was hedge ne bulke
And

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And thus he left of his folke he pursued merrily till he approached a river wherein they said he had lepte for saute, & so escaped the king & his houndes. wherfore the king left him & retourned alone till vnto a fontaine that he founde, & which was so clere and pleasant to his sight that he alight from his horse for to refresh him a litle in the same place. And there he sat downe vnder a tree, to & which he had reined his horse the better to solace & spozte him at his owne pleasure. ¶ And thus as he was in consolaciō there came to him a yonge damoysele moche greuous & of noble manere named Beatrice accompanied of a noble knight, & two squires, with.iii. damoyseles the which she helde in her seruice & familiarite. And there as she that in title of signourie possessed the saide grounde began to speake to & king. What in repreuing him for that he was comen to hunte with in the boundes and limites of his signourie & possession. And as vnto him & which she knewe not she began to saie prudently. Faire lord who hath moued you to come hūte or take any beastes wīn & forestes of my regiō, know ye not that I am lady & possessor of this lōde, Damoysele said the king nay. And who hath than said she giuen you leue or licence so to doo. I haue well apperceiued the harte & ye haue chased and put to flight, & hath saued him in the river, but howe be it that ye had taken him yet should he not haue abiden as yours. And yet is mine intencion if it please god that ye shall recompence me or ye departe. For ye haue none acciō of right for to chase or take any beast wilde or tame in mi forestes, nor on mi ground. And whan king Oriant had heard & faire Beatrice speake thus bi reaso for right notably, he toke

her

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her in so great pleasure þ he was sodaynly surprised of
her loue in suche wise that fro than he purposed in him
selfe to take her to wife & spouse. And þ better to man-
ifest & make her haue knowledge of him he began to lift
up his visage in beholding her w a flowfull chere & said
Know ye faire damoyzell that I wolde not tike to do
you any displeasure, but me thinke þ I maye well come
(...) spozte me self vnto this region & lande as seuerall
lorde therof, by reason wherof I owe me homage. And
to thende that ye pzetende no cause of ygnorante w it is
(wout þ I wyl hide it) þ I am Qziant kynge of Lyle-
fort. Wherby there is neyther lorde ne damoyzell in all
this countrey but they ben holden to yelde me tribute &
homage as my vassayll and fee al subiect. But þ not w-
standing if I thought to haue endēaged you of one seile
ferdinge I wolde recompence it at your desyre, for þ no-
ble prudence, curtesy, & graciosite þ I perceiue beyng
in you, by your maintene & moderate speche. Be w t e it
that it is well in my power to make your selle amende
and repaire the iniury that ye haue doone in r pzenige
and chiding me for þ which is mine owne. But your no-
ble, faconde, & pleasaunt behaour causeth me somewhat
to refraine my courage, & receiue your offence to marci.
And whan a noble knight named Sauary þ long time
had serued the said damoyzell had heard þ right mighty
king Qziant speake thus benignely he descended incon-
tinent from his horse, & w his knees flered he prostrated
him & did him honour & reuerence in saluinge hym and
said. Sir king if it please you ye shall pardon my Ladye
if she haue any thing offended you, for she had no cogni-
sion of your riall mageste whan she reasoned with you.

The story of Helias

And she knowledgeth also þ she hath nothinge but þ it
 is at your pleasure & commaundement, & other wise wold
 we not doo, wherfore ye shal pardon her if it please you
 For she hath said nothing but bi ignoraunce, and as she
 that right willi & with good courage wil kepe yours &
 hers. Than answered the kinge to him and said. Know
 ye noble knight that I accepte ynoughe the excuse þ ye
 haue made for your noble lady. But she shall make me a
 mendes in such maner as she shalbe agreable, for þ be-
 aute and for mosite of hir noble persone moeueth me to
 be her husbände, & to take her to wife and spouse, as she
 the which is my whole desire. Than the king begā for
 to speake in this maner & sayd. Gentle damorsell plea-
 sant, vertuous, garnished of albeautie in whome I ha-
 ue totali set the loue of my herte, is it not wel your will
 that I be your husband. Pleaseth it you not to be mi wi-
 fe & spouse to chende that I make you to be crowned as
 quene and lady of Ailfort. May ye finde in your hart by
 suche maner to accomplishe my wil, that you & I might
 be assembled & comionet by marriage. Answered ye now
 & say your aduise. Ha sir saide she right humblye. I am
 not dinge ne sufficient þ ye do to me suche honour, for þ
 handmaiden or subiecte ought not ne maye not in any
 thinge compare to her prence and lord. But sith that it
 pleaseth you to commaund me so to doo, in departinge to
 me of your grace I woe right simple & euil instruct if I
 refused your pleasure, & the excellent honour that ye so
 benignely & of your goodnesse vnto me presēt. For if it
 shoulde please you to marie me to þ least knight of your
 noble company yet ought I to consēt of right. wherfore
 to you that is my lord, & to other in comparable: I am
 all

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all redy to abyg & accept your good & noble with in the ho-
nour wherto ye require me, the which is good betwixt me & of
trope & graunt you. And than king Oriant tooke her by
the hand and said Certes lady I promise you on þe faith
of knyghthod þe as long as ye be on liue neuer to espouse
other woman than you, & I assure you euere here þe I shal
be your husbände. And thus bi a comyn accorde & by the
consentement of them bothe was promised þe saide ma-
riage with one cordiall loue.

CHow kinge Oriant at his returninge fro the chase
brought with him the faire Beatrice for to espouse &
tooke her to wife. Ca. lii.



Whan the promesse was thus made the kinge in com-
tinent made her to be led to Lylefote for to marrye
her. And in Maye whan the trees spryngeth and bring
forth:

Chystry of helyas

forthe theyr odiferaunte floures, and that the Birdes
 bring their armonical tunes on the smal grene twiges
 was made the entre of y noble quene Beatrice into the
 realme of Llesfort. At the which entre all the people as-
 flued from all partes leding great Joye & mirth euerech
 in his possiblite That is to wit, some to make fyres and
 Games of mirth. Other made diuers faire misteries &
 tourneimentes of feates of armes. And befoze the same
 came y olde genere Matrabzune mother of y prue king
 Oziant. The which whā he sawe her come began for to
 smile & haue great Joye of y pleasure that he had to see
 y noble beatrice his loue, which he loued merueilously &
 with al his heart. wherfore he sayd to his said mother
 which he perceiued murmur a litel, I require you my
 right dere lady & mother y pe wyl make ioyous chere &
 beholde here howe I haue founde y moost faire lady of y
 world, replenished of witte & vertues as much as any
 woman liuinge. And I am aduised that neuer as longe
 as sheliueth to haue other wedded wife, for in her is all
 my pleasure. Than as heuy & angrie answered his sayd
 mother by a maner of enuye. Ah my sonne litel reioice I
 for presently I apperceiue your ygnourance y pe now
 wyl so abate your estate, as to take a simple damopfel &
 you being a right puissaunt & noble king might deman-
 de & haue to wife y doughter of the moost riche & noble
 prince that might be found vpon the earth, and finabli
 you & yours possede his realme by succession. Madame
 said the kinge, y, yf it please me soo. Knowe ye that I
 neuer sūde none that so muche pleased me, & that was
 so me to agreable as she is. And ye knowe y ther is no-
 thinge as to haue his pleasure in this worlde. And also
 mariage

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marriage ought not to be made but yf y parties were cō-
tente and of good accorde. wherfore I beseeche you to ta-
ke it in gree as well as I. For to morow in the mornig
if it please god I wyll that the feast and solempnite of y
marriage be celebzed as it behoueth. And eke I hope si-
thit is by the wyll of god. & of good loue & assent of vs
bothe y there may be but al welth come therto. Certain-
ly sonne said she sith that it please the y it be so it cānot
displease me in any maner. But I accorde totallie to thi
good wil. All these wordes saide she w mouthe, but not
with herte, as many doone y be saint symulacon make
semblaunt to consent to some good werke, but thei haue
an other thought and curled wil at hert. And so had the
said Matabrie, for she ceased not to murmur in her sel-
fe against y said marriage, & malignously thought alwai-
e to put therein some diuersitee, & seperacion. But not with-
standing this the feast was not deferred. For the night
before the daye of weddinge for y honour & magnificēce
of the good king Orant and of his noble loue Beatrice
were made moztikes, comedies, daunces, interludes, &
al maner of ioyous sportes in y kinges palais, wher-
as were many great princes and knightes of renoune
pypes, tabozins, doucliners, fiddles, organs, psaltries,
claucozdes, & many other instruments there was in gre-
at nombr of townynge al songes of armony. On y morow
the king was had to the church accompanied of manie
great princes & lordes, in so great triumphe & honour
y it may not be recited. And in likewise was apparailled
y noble lady Beatrice & cōduited of manie noble ladies
& damoyls pages w diuers liueries, as well of y kin-
ges as the quenes. In suche wise y at the conioynge
of

Thysoz of Helyas

Of this noble marriage was made al singular & inestimable solymprite in the church. The masse done eueri mā returned to the palais royal, to where they were receiued in open court for to take the p̄sencē. And ther were all the affluents serued of diuers delicatis & vention of wines & of al nouelties as pleasantly as they coulde wishe. And there p̄sently for the honour of the noble king Oriant eueriche of the company effozced them to doo honour and service to the noble quene Beatrice, the which was so pleasaunt & acceptable to all the people & echone p̄aised her. And in likewise were made the same daye many other newe games, & service to all honours. Than after with all mirth & sowne of trumpets & other armonious instrumentes, p̄ mighti king Oriant & p̄ noble quene Beatrice his wife lay to gether. And on f̄moro we was yet made great ioye & exultacion of al other newe pastimes. In this estate lastid p̄ feast & solymnite of the marriage long space in great haboundance of giftes, largesse of goods, & sumptuousnesse of seruices in suche maner that of long time had not be sene sembla ble feast, to the pleasure of eueri man. But the said Matzune murmured alway i her selfe bi wicked deti accion, which she put sith in effect. And yf she made ani cheere at the said feast it was by false semblant and maner of doinge, for vniustly and wrongfully she conspired alway some euill vpon the noble quene Beatrice.

How the mighty kinge Oriant espoused the notable Beatrice, the which conceived of him. vi. sonnes and a daughter at one burthen. Ca.

Thus



Thus as the puissant king Oriant, & his noble
 spouse Matric loved enterle together with a
 re and true as was possible & in such a wise that there
 was neuer man nor woman that loved their wyves as he did
 his. It happened that right shortly after the solemnite
 of the marriage she cōsumed by sonnes & a daughter at
 the burden of a woman which knewe that she was bigge
 & loved her husband & all the sonnes were the full of her
 when a day as she was leying in a window at the
 chamber

was a

B.11.

The story of Helias

chambre rotall the sawe a woman in the strete that bare
to chrystning two childzen that an other woman had co
ceiued and borne at one time. And than familiarly she
called y^e kinge of whome she was right wel beloved &
saide. Sir I greatly meruaile me of a thinge that I see
ponder. And wherof swete loue saide the kinge. Of it.
children saide she that a woman hath conceyued at one
time, which I see ponder borne to chrystning, meseemeth
that it is difficile for a woman to conceiue two childze
without hauing the compay of two men. Sweet loue
saide the kinge, yes right wel, put away the opinion fro
your minde. For by the wil of god & after nature a wo
man may conceiue of one man to the nombre of .xii. chil
dzen at ones, naturally, fourmed, and parsite. The why
the wordes precedentis compared ful derely the forena
med quene, by the false and malignus Matabrune. And
it is so often sene fortune, y^e it is better to be sill than to
speake euill, wherof y^e sage saith. That a great speakig
is seldon seen pronounced, wout to haue any faute, wher
by he saith after y^e he neuer repented him of to litle spea
che. But al thinges promised y^e king. Orient and quene
Beatrice loued well together. Than it happened with
in a while after that tidinges came vnto y^e king y^e some
of his enemies had destroyed ad slaine of his folke, and
all redi had conquered of his londes bi watere. And that
soone ynough & easely they had moeued to entre many
princes. But what tidinges so euer he had, he made no
embraunt to resist against his contraries. For he was
in such a wise enprised & taken in y^e loue of his wiffe that
after the tidinges he was about .vi. moneth y^e he coulde
in no wise leaue her, no puruey ante thinge for the saide
affayres

Knicht of the Swanne

affaires, wherbi his nobil his enemies came so ferforth in
his landes that becomstrait he was druen to prepaire
men of warre & to lue his spouse. And consequetely he
made to assemble his chivalry to chynge & wout delaye
they might be redy to accompany him in his warres agai
nst his enemies etc which was doone at his commaunde
ment. Wha saw he & thine that his wife appoched to be
delivered, wherfore benigne he called Matabra his
mother for to be to her as recommaunde & saide, My la
dy mother ye see that I am constrained to depart for to
go war vpon my enemies. Ye know also that in the wise
of the grace of god my wife hath conceived & is greete
with child, wherfore I pray you if it please you of your
benigne geete to haue her for recommaunded in al hir
singuler affaires, praynge you also & in mine absēce ye
take and kepe her as your daughter in the wing you to
be her mother, And I beleue in & pleasure of god that she
wyl haue you in honour & reuerence as mother and o
bey you as your daughter. Ye se that she is mecke as a
dowe, softe & amiable as a lambe, prudent and vertuous
as is possible, wherfore I recommaunde her to you as she
that knoweth the great loue that is conioyned betwē
vs two, and as to my parte I wene that neuer man lo
ued woman moze than I loue her. Ye know also & da
nger & might come to a woman bigge with child as she
is wherfore if bi your default any incōueniēt cam to her
I would not be glad ne content with you. Ye haue felde
of all estates at your pleasure for to commaunde etc to do
all the seruice & helpe & to her shal be requisit. Wherfore
madame I put & leue her all in your keeping & sollicitude
Mi faire sonne said Matabra thou knowest & what
place

pleaseth thee, to me is agreeable, and all thi wyl is mine
 wherfore thou maist well knowe that I shall kepe thy
 wyfe the quene as my singuler doughter, & better than
 mi selfe. Thou maist in like wise wit that I am she that
 wolde be most heauy and soroful if any harme came to
 her. And therfore doubt not but that I shal diligētly do
 thi pleasure, for I loue her with al mi hert for gracious
 and noble maintene that I se in her dayli encrease, ther-
 fore take no thought. wel madame said he, I thā he you
 and totally put her in your grace. wherfore in sayng a-
 dewe I take my leaue humble at you. Now go said she
 god be thi guide. And thus the king departed from the
 said Matabzun his mother, whose wordes were not ac-
 cordant to her dedes, for they were al but abuse & false
 simulacio, like as vntreuly she shewed bi her cursednes.
 Chā after þ king cam to take leaue of his noble spouse
 and in weeping tenderly spake longe with her, & than
 tooke an amorous leaue of her, in kissing her benignely
 so that she fell downe in a swoone. And he tooke her vp
 amiable in raising a great lamentacion and sorow. And
 at her awaking in weeping bi her were made many co-
 plaintes, the which were so prudently ordeined that al
 the noles knyghtes & barons wepte profoundly in be-
 holding her for pite that they had at herte. And than þ
 kissed eche oþer right curteeli, taking a cardial leaue w-
 out power to speake any more for sorow. Than he toke
 leue of her & of the other ladies & damopelles, and with-
 out any more taryeng mounted on horse backe for to go
 to his people against his enemies, where as he did ma-
 ny faire valiantyes, and diuers great and noble feates
 of arms.

Knight of the Swanne

How king Dytant toke leaue of þ noble quene Beatrice his spouse. And how the false and peruers Mafabruke composed & machined with another mafrone to committe crime & treason toward the sayd noble quene Beatrice. Ca.



When the noble kinge had thus taken his leaue of his spouse & of many other of his frendes he went to the warre for to be fight his enemies the paynims & to susteine the faythe catholike of god, and to defende his lande. But of his noble feates of armes that he with his knightes and many other might doo in þ sayd warre as true knightes of all mighty god, & of the victorie that they obtayned as now I shall leaue to & take any fether to thende that I may retourne to speake of

of the effecte of the mater And also y more sooner to row
without p[ro]fite to the ture cronicles and miraclous
histories, of the which I pretende to make singuler in-
cion. And consequentli p[ro]cede vnto y deduccion of this
present booke conteyning diuers noble feates and nota-
ble vertues worthi of memorie & hie recommendaciōs
as after this declared. So it happened y after y depar-
ting of king Driant & that he was out of y limitēs of Is-
lefort with al his army & exercite, the right cursed ma-
tazune considering the absence of her sonne begā to re-
passe the treason & euil that she had conspired to do vnto
the noble quene Beatrice. And for to come vnto her dā-
nable & cursed wil she sent for the midwife y was chose
and deputed to receiue of women y childre y ben borne
on erthe. The whiche midwife cam incontinent at her se-
ding. To whome Matazune saied. Mi freende I haue
sent for you for a certaine secrete that I haue to tell you
& declare vnder maner of confessiō. And therfore ye shal
swere & promise to me your faith that neuer to any crea-
ture liuinge ye shal discover mi secrete, & that that I in-
tende to tell you. But if you wil cōsent & do it in keeping
to me faith and promise I shal giue to you so muche
golde & siluer y you nor none of yours shal neuer haue
defaute ne need of goods. And for y more I shal helpe
you to mary your children and frendes highlye and ho-
nourably, when the olde midwife hearde the p[ro]misses
that Matazune made to her she consented to her cursed
desire laying. Certainlie madame ye may alway saie &
remanunde me as to your seruaunt, and I promise you
w[ith] faith that any thinge what soeuer it be neuer to fo-
rget your liuinge shal it be discovered. Therfore maye
that

Knight of the Swanne

that I Mall doe as if it were in confession. And herelpe
said Matabrun yf ye do so mi desire I Mall hold to you
þ I haue promised, wherfoze in trusting to your wordes
I Mal recite vnto you mi secret, & that þ I pzetede to do
Ye know & it is true how my sonne kinge Oziant hath
taked the quene Beatrice that present is to his wife, þ
which was but a simple gentil womā as ye wel know
And ye wote wel that he might haue had & may, one ri-
ther & moze noble of bloude without comparison thā she
is, seinge & considering the magnifike and excellent lig-
nage wherof he is spronge. But his saide wife hath so
enchained & bound him i her lines that he may neither
eat, drinke ne rest, but if he be alwaie bi her, & to make
short tale, whan his enemies were comen into his lōde
for to endomage him. for nothinge colde he leaue her, in
any wise to resist thē for his defence. wherfoze I wolde
that you and I had aduised singularly to turne his hert
fro þ loue of her, & set her in so great indignaciō of him
that he may acquaint him with some other high & noble
lady & marry her. Now ye se that this quene is great w-
child, wherfoze more easely may we cause this diuersite
& seperacion of his loue by some maner. Madame sayde
þ false olde matrone, euē as you please to deuise of this
māter I accorde me to your wil, and if you seme it good
I Mal make her to waste & le the childe within her bo-
die, & thā I Mal certifie to the king that she wolde hau-
te slaine. Fred: laid Matabrune I had thought another
meanes moze expedient & that should be of right great
abomination & horzour to þ kinge as I Mall shewe you
the maner, ye se that she is meruailoulli bigge, wherfoze
it is to be presupposed þ she Mal haue two or thze chil-

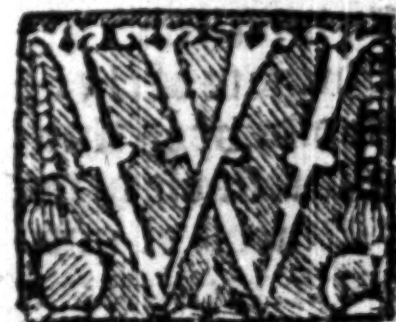
Dzen, therefore whan it cometh to the terme of her delfue
raunce that shalbe shortly ye shal come to her & bi fait
semblaunt make maner to presente & offere you al to her
seruice. And whan she shalbe deliuered of her chylzen
ye shal giue the to me secretely for to trasporte the. And
I shal ordeine as many yonge whelpes þ I shal make to
be taken from under some bitch that hath newli whel
ped, & by this maner she shall giue her to vnderstande þ
she hath borne them, & that they ben yssued of her body.
wherby after we may make her, the king, and all the o
ther barons to beleue that she had the companie of some
dogge the which hath engendred the said whelpes, bi þ
which we shall come to our desire without anie contra
diccion. For I haue one my faithfull seruaunte that I
haue nourished of youth to whome I shall secretely ge
ue the thildzen as soon as they be borne, & at mine onlie
commaundement he shal go and cast them into þ riuer
of whome shal neuer be mencio. And I promise you ma
dame said the false olde matron that I shal doo even as
it pleaseth you to aduerte and shewe me, by so cautelus
and subtil maner that the werke shall seme to be sure &
notarious like as bi our entendement ye haue deuised.

How the quene Beatrice childed naturallie. bi. say 2e
sonnes and a doughter, the whiche in theyr birth brou
ght eche of them a chaine of siluer miraculouly wrou
ght at theyr neckes. Ca. vi.

Knight of the Swanne

quene beatrice

matron



When the time limited and ordeined of
almighti god approched that the no-
ble & goodly Quene Beatrice should
be deliuered after þe cours of nature,
the false matrone aforesaid went and
delibered in her selfe to execute & put
in effecte her inauynus or mooste wicked purpose & the
cursed treason the which be the exhortement and coun-
sele

Thystoꝝ of Helyas

scile of the peruers & in grate Matabzune she had consented foꝝ to pꝛepare and do agaynst þe said noble quene Beatrice & her pooꝛe innocent chyldeꝛen, the whiche neuerthelssẽ were miraculoussly kept & pꝛeserued fro death bi the deuine grace and pꝛotrecion of our sauour Iesu chꝛiste, as it shalbe saide here after. And so than at the houre determined that þe noble Beatrice felt her oppꝛession with greefe of chyldeinge incontinent the saide false olde midwiffe was sent foꝝ. The whiche when she was comen by false semblaunt reasoned the noble Quene of her affaires as in suche case is accustomed. And she declared to her all þe tꝛouth & how she felt her oppꝛessed sore. Than the said matrone by fained blādissinges gaue her good courage in making semblaunt to expose her al to her seruice, foꝝ þe knew þe houre appꝛoched to accomplishe her cursed intentie. And foꝝthwith was se foꝝ matabzune þe whiche all redy had pꝛepared þe whel pes foꝝ to perfourme þe reason. But she comen made manner of great welth to the said noble quene Beatrice. And sodainly in great paine and trauauble of bodye she chyldeð. bi. sonnes and a faire daughter, at whose birth eche of the bꝛought a caine of siluer about their necke issuing out of their mothers wombe. In which was beautoussly demonstrid the pure & singuler dignite of the noble mother & her childe, and that god wolde bpon them extend his diuine grace. But the euil & detestable herte enfoꝛce the alway to peruert & totally adnichil al good werkes. And whan Matabzune sawe the. bi. litle chyldeꝛen boꝛne hauing echone a chaine of siluer at necke, she made the lightli & secretli to be boꝛne a side by her chā

Knight of the Swanne

berer of her teachinge, and than took .v. little Dogges
that she had prepared, and all bloudy laide them vnder
the quene in maner as they had issued of her bodye. And
anone the matrone or midwife began to eserie with an
high voice sayinge. O a lady quene here is a great & mer
uailous mischiese that to you is presently comen. For I
haue receiued. vii. sinking Dogges the which be issued
of your body by an horroure ouer detestable. Matabzune
in likewise endeuored her on the other syde to approue
þ said iniury (by her commised & purpensed) saienge, Ta
ke away lightly this infamite & make to bere this foul
nelle of dogges into the sceldes, & þ each one holde secreete
this mischiese & enoyme forsaite in such maner that for
the honour & reuerence of missonne it neuer be knowen
ne discovered to any þ liueth. ¶ Now it is not to be lout
ted þ the noble quene Beatrice to whome had be done
this iniurious treasō ne was at that houre greatly tra
uailed & vexed of her bodi so to haue childed. vii. childre
at one burthē, for a woman is often soze pained to bere
one all onely. Wherfore she was as dead in her chiding
& apparceiued nothing of þ said treasō that was to be
done. But whā she was comen againe to her selfe hauing
somewhat moze vigoure than she had before, þ false ma
tabzune began to caste an eye on her by a false & cursed
regarde moze mortal than of a Baselike, and repzeud
her of the faute þ her selfe had made & commisd arguig
her without a cause & saide. O unhappi & miserable wo
man full of shameful harlotri. Here is the midwife that
presently hath receiued. vii. Dogges of your body, þ whi
che I haue made to be bozne to þ selfes for to bidde oue
r

The story of Helyas

roure & infection of your enoyme sinne. And therfore confesse here your dede & declare to vs if ye haue had copani & habitation with any dogge wherof this proseedeth and we shall kepe your counsaile. And whan the noble Queene heard these wordes she was so sorowfull þ she swooned nere for anguisshe. And after that her courage was a litle renued she prayed Matabzune pitiously to shewe her that, that she said to be issued of her bodie. And incontinent she made to shewe her þ. vii. whelpes that she had ordred for to doo the treason, wherof þ noble queene wepte and sobbed profoundly in bearing her culpe beholding the in aying mercy for that she had not done. But that not withstanding the false Matabzune alway redargued her in appropzieng the crime to her saying. Unhappy woman thou ought to be bzente whan þ haste willed to conceiue with a dogge. Ha madame said she I thought it neuer, ne þ case neuer hapened me. And therfore I pray you giue me no more great matter of sorowe than I suffice presentli, but thanked be god my creatour sith that it pleaseth hi to be thus. For it is yet in his might to trāsmut me oz anye other that him pleaseth into some dombe beast and that, that pleaseth him ought to please vs. Than departed the false Matabzune, and the wicked matrone bi faint simulacion made semblaunte to recomfort her saying. Alas madame take not so much sorow þ ye be not worse therfore, for if it please god we shall do in suche wise that your noble spou'e king Ozyant in no wise shal haue cognicion. And it shalbe keppe so secrete that no sclaunder shall come therof. Ha sweete loue saide the good queene, neuer will the king take any
conso.

Knyght of the Swanne.

consolaciō with me, for he wil charge me of this office
without euer to pardon me, & wyl iudge me culpable
of deach. But if it pleased his grace to assigne mi pooze
life in some religiō for euer to serue god and to penance
for my synnes, alas I wolde take it in pacience and pray
for him, and put paine to apease the yre of god which I
so stretched on me, wherfore I praye you humble that
ye wil require mi lady that she wil impetret his grace
of the king mi faithful spouse. And thus suffred þ good
quene anguishe on all sides. For she was betrayed of
them which made maner to be sorowfull and haue com-
passion of her mischiese, and of thiniuries that them self
had made bi their vnttrue courages.

**How Markes bare the. vii. childzen into a forest and
left them on his mantell. Ca.**

bti.

Thyſtoꝝ of Helias



And after that the false olde womā had par-
fet & doone their treason & they had enter-
prised as ſaidis Matabzune called a ſquire
of hers named markes & ſaid, Markes my
true ſecretarie it behoueth that preſently ye
doe me a ſeruiſe the whiche I ſhall declare to you. Ma-
dame ſaid he it is wel reaſon & I obeie to you, for I ha-
ue receiued mi welth & honour of your grace only, wher-
fore knowe & I ſhal accompliſhe w right good herte &
that ye pleaſe to comaunde me. Now Markes ſaid ſhe
mi freende it behoueth that to me ye be true & ſecret in &
I haue to do with you, for it muſt not be knowne ne re-
ueled to no perſone & liueth vpon paine of your life. And
alſo if ye hſide & kepe it ſecrete I ſhal giue you goodes y-
nough. Lady ſaid Markes comaunde what it pleaſeth
you, I pmiſe you to be true & loyal. It is of tꝛouth ſayd
Matabzune & the quene of late hath childed. vii. ſonnes &
a doughter, & which children hath bzought eche of the
a chaine of ſiluer about their neckes, which me ſemeth
an euil ſigne & that in theyꝝ age verſil & deſeret thei mai
be murderers oz theues, wherfore I haue aduiſed & it
is better to dzowne the oz make the to die in their chil-
de hode than to haue a greater ſclaunder at & laſt & to el-
cheue the ſozowe & he might haue hadde I haue giuen
her to vnderſtande & .vii. litell dogges ben yſſued of her
body, & which I haue made to ſlee & caſt into the feildes
And I pꝛai you on my perſil and my wil to take the .vii.
children & goo & ſpill them oz caſte them in ſome riuer, in
ſuche wiſe that neuer be tidinges of them. Lady ſaid &
Markes it ſhal be done wholy as ye haue pleaſed to or-
lein me, & I pmiſe you & of theſe .vii. childꝛe ſhal neuer
be

Knight of the Swanne

be any nencion. And than at the commaundement of ma-
tabzune markes moulted on his horse, & toke .vii. chil-
dred as he was ordeined, & whiche he toke & wozapped
in his mantell & in a great haste transported them out
of the citie of Wiltefort. And whan he was bout .x. mile
out of þe said citie he entred into a forrest he was inspired
wth the grace of god for to descēd of his horse, & to behold
how the pooze children did. And whan he was descēded
he laide them in the saide plaine bypon his mantel, and
than began for to beholde them. And whan he sawe the
so faire so pleasaur, & so wel fourmed he had great pitie
at his hert, & considered in him selfe that sith þe thei had
brought those chaies of siluer out of their mothers wo-
be that god hath chosen & ordened them to some perfec-
cion of welth and excellent honour. And thus as he loue
& benigne he behelde these pooze children they begane
all to laugh & to beholde him sweetly. And than he was
in suche wise moeued wth pitie & compassion that he
delibered in him selfe to do the no harme but by him self
comaunded the into the holy garde proteccion & mercy
of god in manere of speaking to them sayinge. Nowe I
pray to god fayre children þe he wil kepe & preserue you
from al euil and encombrance by his holy benigne grace
and þe shortly be confounded all your enemies, & the false
olde witche þe hath sent you hither for to purchase your
death and destruction. Alas pooze childre it greuerh me
toze for to leue you here in this place as desolate, wādzed
& habādoned of your blode. But I hope þe þe hath wil-
led to creat & forme you in your good mothers body wil
not leue you dispurueyed, and fare ye wel to god I com-
maunde

D. i.

The story of Helyas
 maunde you children, for I shall se you nevermoze. And
 thus amply took the said Markes leaue of the. vii. li.
 tle chyliden the which at his departing took thym in
 his armes and pitiously kissed them in weeping tenderly
 with salt teres. And than he returned to Lilefort ma-
 kinge muche sorow in wardly for them.

**How the. xii. children wer found in the forest by a de-
 uoute hermit named Helyas. Ca. viii.**



I night of the swanne.



Continēt after þ he had thus taken his lea-
ue of þ childzē he retourned to lilefort where
as þ peruers Matabrūe came to fore to meet
him for to knowe tidinges of her cursed wyll
sayinge. Now my freende Markes haue ye done mi cō
maundement of the. vii. childzen as I bad you. Madam
said he, know you that ye shal neuer haue tidiges of thē
for I haue al to hewed their membres and casted thē in
the riuer. And she said mi frende ye haue done well and
I shall re knoledge the pleasure oz it be longe. For that
ye haue ben faithfull to me I shall contente you well.
And whan my some kinge Oziant shalbe retourned I
shal do so muche towarde him þ he shall make to die his
espouse wherof mi herte shalbe glad, and I shalbe aue-
ged to my gree. And with these wordes departed mata-
brune and the for named markes one fro the other.
¶ Thus leaue we to speake of thē, & returne to speake
of the childzen þ whiche were in the forest dolorously
wayling and as all dead for hunger. But by the grace
diuine of god ther came into that place an holse and de-
uout hermite named Helias, the whiche had his habita-
cion in the said forest. And whan he apperceiued the. vii.
poore litle childzen there abandoned & weping for hon-
ger: he had so great sorowe at his hert that he wepte for
pitie and compassiō to beholde them, wherfore he toke
& lapped thē tenderly in his mantel & with al their chai-
nes at thir neckes he bare thē into þ lile hous of his
hermitage, & there he warmed and sustened them of his
poore goodes as well as he coude.

The story of Helias

How the good & deuoute hermit prayed to our lord
for the ayde and succour of the .vii. poore children, whose
prayers were exalted. Ca. 12



After that the good hermit had doone his possi-
bilite to susteine & rechaufe the .vii. litle chyl-
dren of the noble Quene Beatrice to him vn-
knownen. He seinge the indigent puerlyte of
them had great feare that they should die for fante of na-
tural foode and had none hope but only in the mercie of
god. And than for them he made his prayers saying hu-
bly

knyght of the Swanne

by Souerayne god almighty very rector & governa-
tour of all thinges that by thy diuine grace wylled to re-
pist the childre of Israel in deserte with manna of heuē
And þ in like wise susteined þ good prophēt Daniel in þ
pitte of Lions And that also sithe in the new testamēt
hast repasted fyue thousand men besyde the women and
chldzen with fyue barley loues and two fishes I supplie
thee and requyre humbly that bi thi bitt, mercy and sweet-
nes it please thee to repast and susteine these. vii. poore
litle chldzen þ whiche bi thi grace I haue found naked
and defenge for hunger in this forest, to the end that whā
thou hast nourished them they may deuoutly serue and
honour the as thou knowest. And incontinent was exal-
ted to þ oraison of þ deuoute hermit befoze god, for mira-
culously there came into his house a faire white goat, þ
wiche beningnely came nere to þ. vii. litle chldre in pre-
senting to them her milke, and ther she gaue them sucke
naturally as their nource. And than the good hermite
knewe clerely that god had verrytously sent her for þ nou-
rishing and sustentation of the poore litle chldre that
he had founde, wherof he thanked god greatly of his di-
uine sauitude. And thus this white goate gaue milke
sufficiently to them and than retourned to the wood.
And so longe she gaue the souke that they began to gro
and waxe somewhat stronge and folowed her in þ wood
and aboute the hermitage.

¶ Howe the. vii. chldzen were miraculustly nourished
of a white goate sent bi goddes grace. And how Maza-
brune accused falsly the good quene Biatrice to king O-
riant her spouse. Ca.



When the forsaide childzen were come to age of pue-
 rtilite the deuoute hermite Helias made and appro-
 pyed to eche of them a cote of leaues of the trees oz of
 suche as he coulde get. And so they wente playing with
 in the forest where as thei gathered fruite to eat with
 thyr bread, for in that pointe were they nourished vn-
 der the grace of god, and by the dilygence of the good
 hermete which with good herte administred the bread
 of palmelles geuon to him. Now it happened by space
 of tyme that king Oziant their father returned victori-
 ous

Burgh of the Shreanne

out of the warre that he had agaynst his enemies whā
he left his good queene brgge of the vii chylde ha ban-
doned of their bloud. And whā the false olde Matrie
knew that the good kyng Orant her sonne was comē
she went agaynst him makinge the good mother a sap-
pyng as she wolde wepe she began to saye soz to accō-
plishe her fiers courage. I am my most deare sonne ye be
right herly welcome. I am all Joyful that ye be retou-
ned in Tove and health accompaigned of your barons

But on the other parte my herte is so heauy & soye soz
your wife and soz that is to her hapened y litle lacketh
y it ne breaketh. And when the king hearde her speake
so he was as abashed and sayd. why madam is ther a-
ny harme come to my wyfe, is she dead oz he w. He my
sonne saide she nay: but the case is muche meze enoyme
the whiche I maye not ne dare not wel reherce. oz the
horroz and abhomy nation of the dead, And also I had
leuer y an oth it tel it you than I soz it is wel trewe of
al your seruantes For the said the kinge yf any upl
be happed it is moze decent & conueable y ye tel me it
an other w whom I should be agry. He my chylde syth
it pleaseth you so I shal tel you, but it greueth me hert
soz y honour of you & yours Know ye y when ye depa-
ted fro this countrey I thought y your wife had concey-
ued a chylde of you, but she had conceived of a dogge the
whiche is a foule sine. For here is y midwyfe y hath re-
ceiued. vii. litle dogges of her bodi y which I haue made
to kyl and be casten in the feldes soz to vndo the sclau-
ber, wherfor ye ought to mak her die and cast in a fyze
And the matron was w her soz to approue the lye. And
when y king heard these wordis affirmed by false ten-
gues

Thy story of Helyas

gues he had so great sorow at his hert that none might
haue more. And bi great dispite he demaunded where þ
he was. And Matabzune said þ she was recluse in her
chambre, wherout she durst not come for shame of hir vi
lanous dead. And than the kinge entred into a chambre
wth one of his knightes & begā inwardly discomforted to
say. Alas what is happened to me. Alas what doloure
is this, hath mi wiffe conceiued. vii. dogges. Hath she ha
bādoned her to brute beastes she þ I thought had be þ ho
nour & beaute of al ladies. Hath she betrayed me that I
loued more thā euer man loued womā. Am I bi her dis
honoured and brought to confusion in mi realme. Why
hath not god auanced my daies where as I was by
mine enemies. I was wel bozne in an unhappie houre
for to se now this obprobre. Alas who shal counseil me
O god almighty helpe me, for I require no more to ap
proche her þ I haue so muche loued. In this sharpe an
guish reconforted him the knight in the beste wise that
he might. But he was so inwardly discomforted that he
laide him on a bedde where as he fell on slepe for sorow
& melancoly. On þ other part was the noble quene Bea
trice iⁿ an other chābre wher as she made no lesse sorow
than her noble spouse. Than came to her a squier þ long
time had serued her, & declared to her al þ manner howe
king Oziāt was returned fro þ warre, wherof she was
greatlie abashed, and axed the squier if in any wise she
had ben spokē of. And he answered yea, & recited to her
al how þ peruerce Matabzune, and the false and disloy
al matrone had tolde & affermed to the noble kinge O
ziant of her fait. And than she began for to make her co
plaint to almighty god & his glozious mother sayinge
Right

Knyght of the Swanne

Kyght swet lady and sacred mayde mother of the saup-
our and redemptor, Jesu chryst what synne myght I haue
commyssed towarde thy dere sonne Jesu chryst that bit-
dogges be yllued out of my body wherbi I haue lost the
loue of my husband the moste pleasaunt & the best that
euer woman myght haue chosen. Alas souerayn kinge
Jesús chryst that for to washe the crimes & offences of
all pooze sinners hath shedde wather and bloud fro your
precious side wherof your most worthy mother receiued
so great dolour at her hert I beseech you y it wil please
you to clense, washe, and purge me of all my synes and
crimes that euer I comised agaynst you. And as it ulpe
as ye comforted your swet mother the day of your holpe
resurreccion, whā fyrst & before all other ye shewed you
to her in body impassible and glorified and consequently
to the other holy ladies & to your most happy apostles
I beseech you humbly that ye wil recofort your seruante
inding to requir you, and to restablische her to the good
grace and loue of her true husband and spouse to whom
she neuer thought to do wrong ne offence in any maner
And thus she abode heui & sorrowfull in her chambze in
cessauntly requiringe our swete sauour Jesu chryste &
the glorious virgin Mary his right worthy mother
for to impetere and get mercy.

How kinge Oriant assembled his counseyle for to
know bi what maner ought to entreate the quene his
wife the whiche wrongfully and without cause was
inuriyed of the paruers Matabzune mother to kyng
Oriant. Ca.

The story of Helyas



The king Orsant beinge repored in melancoly
as it is saide made me incontinent to assemble
his counsell, that is to wit Dukes, erles, knigh
tes and other lordes of renowne, wth the bishop
and prelate of the churche. And whan they were al asse
bled in the consistory the kinge arose & began to speake
in sayng. Faire lordes I have made you all to assemble
in this place for to discute of a matter, & which to me is
heui & greuous to supporte. It is of trouthe notozly &
sith my retourning it is shewed to me & affermed & my
wife & which ye knowe durynge my viage hath be deliue
red of, vii. litle whelpes, which she hath conceived of a
dogge, as it is presupposed, wherefore it were shame to
me: if euer I retourne to her by copulacion carnall. And
I wil & bi your aduise this maner be consulted, & howe

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I may achieve it. And for to answer of this mater was preferred, þe bishop þe said. Sir king vnder correction of you & mi lordes here present I shal saie as be semeth of that, þe is proposed here of the queene your noble spouse þe which is saide to haue conceived, bi. dogges, me semeth þe bi iustice she ought not to receiue death. And here is þe reason wherfore. It is possible þe in her slepe be comen to her some beast þe hath done her this outrage without her knowledge & consent, wherfore she is in nothing culpable. And fortermore your noble person hath touched of times to hers after þe constitution of the sacramēt of marriage. Wherfore me semeth vnder reuerent: þe ye ought not consēt to her death, but howbeit ye mai make her diligently to be kept in some honest place bi maner of prison, & of the tarpis let the iudgement to god þe is þe true iudge: & only retribuer of good & euil, & the trouth shall finabli be knowē aparty. Of this counsel the king was somewhat consoled in his herte, for he had alwaie a certaine lone to his wiffe. But after that arose another knight hauing a fierse lions courage sayinge there agaynst what he wolde please this woman thus seing þe dishonour & shame that she hath doone to you, yf she be but a loneli put i prison ye mai neuer mari you to a nother wiffe & bi consequence this pulcrit reame should be left without heire of your body. Bi the which thinge considered if I were beleued she should be brent in a great fire, as it is well knowne þe hath ynough deserved it, & thā ye might mari a more noble lady thā she is, þe which wold appease the sorow that he haue for this. Of this counsel king Quant was not ouer glad, but without shevinge great semblant as he that desired to saue the bodye of
E. u. the

The story of Helias

the good quene concluded this matter saying. Now fol-
 lowes I shal tel you in giuing you aduertence, if it so were
 that she be culpable of death yet haue I vowed & againe
 warde made promesse to god that she bringe dead or ali-
 ue neuer to espouse other wife, for any treasours or real-
 mes that any man liuing may giue or habandon to me
 and thus I certifie it you. Then at the nobles and great
 lordes of the assistance concluded with a comune accord
 that it was conuenable by this maner that she helde aloneli pry-
 son in likewise as the bishop had delibered. And at their
 aduice the kinge ordeined two of his knightes that they
 shoulde put the queene his wife into some gracious prison
 and that she shoulde be honestly serued & administred of
 meate & drinke as to her noble estate appertained and
 that they shoulde charge her for to praye to god for hi, & to ad-
 uertise her how he had preserved & defended her fro death
 And whan the cruel Matabzun had knowen the delibe-
 ration of the bishop he spake to him reuerently, & gre-
 atly intured him for his counsell that he had giuen to save
 the queenes life. After that came the two knightes to the no-
 ble quene Beatrice and benignely at the commaundement
 of the kinge and his counsell put her in a faire chambere
 by maner to holde prison and there they reueled to her al
 that had ben said and ordeined by the said counseyl. And
 how the kinge had defended her from perill, & yet more-
 ouer had commaunded to entreat her honestly and that she
 shoulde praye to god for him, wherof greatly she thanked
 & praised god which seinge the case wherin she wend to
 be culpable had saved his life. And thus patiently in we-
 ringes she abode in prison. But she recommaunded her
 oft to the kinge thanking him of his grace done to her for
 the

Knight of the Swanne:

the offence to her imposed, wherbi she was obliged for e
uer to pray to god for him. And also she recommended her
humblly to god & to the glorious virgin Marie in al her
nedes abiding long in that place whilte, till at one of
her sonnes named Helias deliuered her out of prison as
it shalbe saide here after.

**How the deuout hermite Helias baptized .vii. litle
childzen in his hermitage. Ca.**

xii.



The history of Helias



Ere this time we shal leave to speake of the noble kinge Orlant and of the noble quene Beatrice his true and faithfull spouse for soe thing right digne and worthe of memozy þ I hope to saie of thei. vii. little childre esclaues, nourished, and alimeted in the pooze hous of the good holy and deuoute hermite named Helias. After that the. vii. childzen were nourished and alaced of the saide white goate miraculouly sene of god as befoze is reherled. The aboue said deuoute hermite to thend that they shoulde be acceptable to god bi þ vertue of wasching in the holi water sacramental made them to be baptized and christened at his good wil and pleasure. And of the said. vii. little childzen there was one amonge the other the which to him was right beauteous and a greable that pleased him muche, the which he named and called Helias after his owne name. And whan that they were in the age of they, pleasaunt & fresche grene pongth thei reane all about sporting and playinge in the said forrest aboute the trees and floures only cladde and habitued with pooze rootes made of greene leaues of the trees of the said forrest, and were barefeted euerichone without any couering vpon their heades in colde and heat, & in this estate wente they alway together the one with the other.

How one of the yomen of the hunte of the peruers ma tabzune founde the. vii. childzen in þ said forrest, þ which tolde of them to Databzune. Ca.

xii
Upon



Upon a time it fortuneth that a yoman of Ma-
 tabzunes hunte named Saurie went for to
 chase and hunt in the said forest in the whiche
 dwelled þe deuoute hermite Helias. Than al-
 mighty god our lord willed þe the sayd yoman
 should finde the said children of the noble king Ozant
 & of the good queene Beatrice his wife. The which chil-
 dren satte vnder a tree echone hauinge a chaine of siluer
 as it is said, vnder þe said tree they gathred wild apper-
 les & eat them all bread. The yoman beheld the gladdie &
 salued

The story of Helyas

salued theym beningnely, & they answered nothing but
ranne a waie befoze him. Than he sued & rane after the
vnto the hermitage, the better & singularly to knowe &
consider their estate & their maner. And whan the good
hermitte sawe the yoman renning after the. vii. childre
he salued him and said. Good frende I pray you for the
loue of god that ye doo no harme to these pooze childre.
Nay for god good father said he. But I am greatly ad-
meruailed to cōsider theyr estate, & of þ siluer chaines þ
I see aboute their neckes. My frende saidey good aer-
mite know ye for trouthe that euen so as ye see I found
them as yonge childre new bozne in this forest. And for
to nourishe theim miraculously came into this place a
white goate, the which hath well susteyned and giuen
theim her tetes to suke her milke þ space of thzee yeres.
And also to my power I haue also diligently kept them
winter and somer. Faire father said the yoman god yeld
you good retribucion, & than he departed fro þ holy her-
mite, in taking leaue benignely of him and of þ. vii. chil-
dren. And whan þ yoman was returned to Lilefote he
went and salued Matabryne and to her recounted how
he had founde. vii. yonge children in the forest hauinge
chaines of siluer about their neckes, the whiche wer sit-
ting vnder a tre in gatherig of wild apples. Of whose
words matabryne was greatly admeruailed, wherfoze
she enquired of him diligently the trouthe. And whan
she vnderstode him she wist wel that thei were the. vi.
sonnes & the doughter þ the noble Quene Beatrice had
bozne & cōceiued of king Oziant. The which bi her wic-
kednesse she wēde to haue made to die, but god our loue
raue helper that alwaie saueh the that he hath chose,
had

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had kept them from all harmes vnder his holy proteccio
for he is þe iust iudge stronge & pacient the which abiderh
the yre of his vengeance vnto the houre bi him ordeined
And ye ought to witte þe Matabryne was ful sorpe & per-
tourbed of these tidinges, wherfore she called secretly þe
said poman & saide. Come hither my frende I wold not
for no treasure but þe I had heard these tidinges þe thou
hast brought. But if þe wilt haue my grace & that I gyue
the great goodes it behoueth thou take suche felawes w
thee as thou wilt, and forthwith go & slea þe .vii. children
that thou hast founde in þe forest. And if thou doo it not at
my pleasure and commaundement I promise thee & be thou
sure that I shal make thee dye an euil death. But if thou
obey me be thou also sure that I shal rewarde thee & thi
felawes in suche wyse that ye shal neuer haue need, Ma
dame to the poman I shal doo your desyre, & I promy
se you to see them without doubt, so that ye shal knowe it
expressely. Well than said she it sufficeth, go and doo your
diligence. And than Matabryne full of woodnesse and fu
roure came to the places that she had first ordeyned for to
bere the .vii. like children out of Lilefort & to make them
die or to drowne them in a riuer, þe which he had not done
for pitte that he had to beholde them whan he left them
in þe forest, and put out his eye and handled him so that
many wende that he had be dead.

How at the commaundement of Matabryne an houn-
des man named Sauary came for to slea þe .vii. like chyl-
dren of king Orlant unknowne in the Forest, where as
they were transfurmed into swannes. Ca.



At the commaundement of the reueres Ma-
 tabune her yoman or houndes man named
 Samary tooke. vii. felowes strong & mightie
 with him for to buy in execution that, þ. vnto
 them was commaunded for to slea the. vii.
 children of þ. noble king Quant & his good spouse Bea-
 rice. And so as the sayd yoman and his felawes palled bi
 village they sawe muche people assēbled. wherfore they
 stow nere. And whan they were approched Squarie de-
 manded wherfore they were so assembled. And they an-
 swered

Knight of the Swanne.

covered for to see a woman executed and bzent by Justice;
And wherfore sayd Sauary, what harme hath she doone
And they sayd for that she hath murdered & slaine the chil-
de that she bare in her owne bely. Than sauarie departed
thens, and by those wordes remembred the execution and
the murcher that he went to doo on the. vii. smal children
of the king & of y^e quene, wherby he was muche esmayed
and begā to refraine his courage & that which he had vn-
dertaken to doo in saying to his felowes. My brethren &
felowes here is a fayre glasse or spectacle for vs. Howe
said they: Haue ye not seen said he y^e these people go for to
doo Justice & put to death that unhappie womā for y^e she
hath murdered & slaine y^e childe that she bare in her owne
body. And therefore faire frendes ye wot that my lady ma-
tabelle hath sent vs hither for to go occise & put to death
vii. faire litle children the which the other daye I founde
in the middes of the forest, echone of them hauinge a faire
charme of siluer at his necke, but cursed be he of God and
confounded may he be that any harme shall doo to them.
B. go. Is this womā that they go to brenne & execute for
one onely childe that she hath murdered and was her owne
Consider we than what punicion might renne to vs for
to put to death the. vii. chyliden of the whiche I haue spe-
ken, the which to vs ne to her that commaundeth canno
hinder nor bre any damage. S. y^e houndes man sayd to
felowes ye spake wisely, and we be al of the same aduise.
They shall haue no harme sayd he: but this we maye do
for to appease & contente the insatiable iniquite of the pe-
uerce Matabzun, we shall go to the. vii. chyliden & take
al onely the charmes of siluer that ben at theyr neckes, &
than bere them to the cursed matabzun & make her to be

Thistorp of Helyas

Lette that we haue slaine and put the to death by þe tokes
of the sayd chaines. To the which thinge accordid his fe-
lawes as good & true couceile. And thus delibered they
entred into þe fozeſt & came vnto þe litte hermitage where
as were dwelling the ſaid litell chyldzen wth the deuoute
hermite Helias. But at that houre they ne founde but .vi.
of the ſaid chyldzen, for the good hermite was gone to aſ-
ke meate in the villages there aboute & had led wth him
his godſonne one of the .vi. chyldzen for to beare þe breade
and ſuche as was giuen to him in þe countrey for ſode of
him and the .vi. vnknownen chyldzen. And whan the hoſt
des man Salar and his felowes came nere the .vi. chy-
ldzen abiden in the hermytage they ſet handes on them &
tooke them for to take away the chaines of ſyluer þe che-
of them had at their neckes, but the pooze chyldzen began
to crye piteouſly for feare that they had. Than ſayd ſala-
ry. Doubt you of nothinge ſaire chyldzen, for we ſhall doo
you no harme if it pleaſe God. And in this ſaying: they to-
ke the chaines of their neckes. And as ſoone as their chat-
nes were of they were al traſmued in an inſtaunt in ſaire
white ſwannes by the diuine grace, & began to flie in the
ayze thzough the fozeſt making a piteous & lamentable
crye, wherof Salar and his felowes were ſo afrayed þe
they fel to the erthe as in a ſwonne. And whan they were
ſten in crimblinge all for feare they ſayde one to another
alas what haue we founde heere. Veri God conſorte vs,
what meaneth this that thoſe .vi. chyldzen ben tranſmu-
ed into ſwannes. Pa ſalle, diſloyall, & traytreſſe Mata-
brune by thee haue we ouer greuouſly offended god. And
bi thee haue we merited right greuons puniſion, curſed
be þe that euer þe ſent vs hyther into this fozeſt to to cor-
pe
chis

Knight of the Swanne

this greuous offence & euill. Departte we hence said saun-
rie for all to longe haue we ben here, we haue founden but
vi. of þ childzen but if þ other were here present he should
haue no harme of vs ne displeasure. Returne we lightli
out the wing to ony of this meruaylous aduenture. But
for to render answere of our commission to that cursed &
peruerce Matabzue we shal bere to her these. vi. chaines
of Silver and shal giue her to vnderstande that we haue
lost one by þ way as weretourned. And thus they ben de-
parted out of þ Forrest & ben returned to Lylifort where
as thei haue founde matabzue, to whome thei haue cer-
tified to haue slaine the. vii. childzen, & for a witnesse they
her presented the. vi. chaines that they had aboute theyr
neckes. And haue geuen her to vnderstand þ they had lost
one by the waie, wherof Matabzue nighe enraged and
waxed mad for anger that they had not brought al seven
and in her woodnesse repzeued and thzetened the flarpl
But for to haue peace they promised and offered to her to
yelde & restore, the value therof, wherof she somwhat cō-
tented her, & gaue them some rewarde for their traucile.
And whan Matabzue had þ said chaines: she sent to seke
for a goldsmith to whome she cōmaunded to make a cup-
pe of the Chaines. And as the goldsmith had put one in
the fyze to appzone the Silver: it multiplied in suche ma-
ner that it alone molten weyed as muche and moze than
all the. vi. together wherof the sayd goldsmith & all his
meyny had great meruayle and were all abashed, wher-
fore the sayde gylde smith gaue the fine other chaines of
Silver vnto his wife for to kepe and set aparte in her
chambre or coffre. For the sayd onle chayne the whiche
he had so molten was suffeyente for to make two such

The story of Helpas

escapes as he, that Matabrune had ordeined him to make
So he forged two cuppes of y which he withheld one for
him selfe with the. v. other Chaynes of Syluer y he kept
till a certayne tyme ordeyned of god as ye shal heare. And
than he brought the other and presented it to Matabrune
that was all admeruayled how he might haue forged a
cuppe so great & materiyall as it was of so lytle siluer as
he semed to haue gyuen, but there as God lyst to worke
nothinge abydeyth impossible to his diuine wyll.

How the good hermite Helpas retorned to his hermitage
with his godsonne one of kynge Dzyant sonnes, and
founde not the other chyldren transmued into white
Swannes. Ca. xv.



Knight of the Swanne

For to ensue the or ygnall of that I haue entreprysed to wytte I shal returne to speake of the deuoute Hermitte Helpas & of his godsonne one of kyng Oryant sonnes, and of the paciente Quene Beatryce. It is to be knowen that anon after that the .iiij. children were transmued into white swannes returned into the hermitage the abouesayde hermitte & his Godsonne Helias, & which founde not the .v. sonnes and the doughter that they had lefte there whan they departed wherof they were mercaylously displeasaunte. And than they began to cal them with hye voyce within the Forrest, but none answered. The good Hermitte sought on the one syde, and hys godsonne on the other syde on all partes of þe Forrest as longe as the day lasted, but they founde them not wherfore they ceased not to make great dole and sorowe all the nyght longe. And on the morowe yonge Helpas began agayne to seeke his brythern and his sister weeping and wailing dolorously as all discomforted thzough the Forrest. And so longe he wente hither and thither that he arriued nigh to a strange or ponde where as he sawe .viij. swannes all white swimmyng on the water, the whiche were his brytheren and syster so transmued by the wyll of god but it was vnknowen to him, how wel þe naturalle he tooke pleasure to beholde them, wherfore he approached to the & they came and fetted him, & he gaue them bread that he had and stroked playne theyr fathers w his hande by nature that moued him therto. And as it is notably recited in the cronycle of this present hystory þe sayde yonge Helpas theyr bryther went to visite them euery daye, and did bere them to eate of the bread þe was giuen to him for goddes sake. And whan þe hermitte had apperceiued hym

Epura

History of Helias.

Diuers times so gorynge to the sayde staghe he demanded him why he went so diligently theither to spoyle him. And he prayed him not to be displeased, for he had founde. vi. sayre white Swannes the which made the greatest chere that was possible to see. Now was the sayd Helias so faire bigge, and wel furnished of bodie and membres that his godfather & good Hermite tooke a singuler pleasure for to beholde him, for he was as perfite in his adolence that he seemed almost a man viril in his force. He knew his pareyl in prudence of understanding. There was not a wilde beast but he tooke lightly by remung. He was honest and well manered in all his gestes, and well attempted in his force and noble hardynesse, and all by thinfusiō of the diuine grace. For he neuer had conuersed ne hauēd the worlde. And yet was he sufficientli instructe & right well learned in science & good maners in such wise that his godfather had enterprised and was delibered for to dedie him to the seruice diuine in office of a ppe, till that the aungel of heauen came downe and releued to the said good and deuout hermite that God our soverayn Lord almighty had otherwise ordayned for as it shalbe expressly reherced here after in this present History.

Now the fild and paruerce Matabzune made malegaciously to assault by an vtrue knight named Makap that the noble Dame Beatrice had forsapied with a Dogge. Ca.

rbf
Du.



Mabaire



King Oriant



During this time was the good quene Beatrice incessably detened of prison, the which she patientli in her aduersite alwaie praised the name of god in praying for her spouse & noble king Oriant, & yf it wolde please him for to succur her. But yf peruerce Matabrune sought incessantly the meanes & occasions that she might for to make her die. So it happed that she had in her courte a knight disloyal and wicked named Mabaire the which she suborned so with money yf she made him to tell & asserme to king Oriant that the good quene Beatrice his wife had be knownen and habited of a dogge. wherof she had cōcepued. vii. litle whelpes, of whom after is made

The story of Helias

mention. And that he had mozeouer delibered to porſe
 and make the king to die and his mother Matabrun be
 benim & other porſon that he ſaid that the noble quene
 Beatrice had ordeined to do it with all, wherto ſ good
 quene neuer thought, for ſhe loved as trui her husband
 as euer woman loved her, & wolde not have done ony
 vntrouth to his body to haue died therfore. But ſ euill
 and wicked folke paine them ſelfe alway to noye and do
 accombrance to them ſ ben good and leued of god. And
 whan the noble king Oziant had heard the ſals and vn-
 true reporte that bi this cursed knight was affermed he
 was merueylouſly ſori & angry of ſ tidinges. wherfore
 the moze ſtedfaſtly to afferme this lie the ſaid ſals Ma-
 kaire preſented him to fight againſt all men that wolde
 ſay or defende the contrari of ſ he had reported, wherof
 the king was moze angry than before and totalpe diſple-
 ted againſt his wiſſe, the which was in nothing culpa-
 ble of al that he was accused. So he ſwoze god & hyſ
 o the that for theſe tidinge ſ he ſhould die, but if ſ there
 were ony that wolde defende her therof in champe of ba-
 taile. Than went there a noble ſquire and tolde ſto ende
 to ende al theſe euil tidings to the good quene and how
 ſ king had ſwozne his oth that he ſhould die greuouſly
 therfore, but if there were any ſ wolde ſuſtaine her qua-
 rel againſt the ſorenamed Makayze, and whan ſ good
 quene heard theſe piteous tidinges litle lacked that ſhe
 ne died for ſorowe, wherfore al lamentably ſhe began to
 complaine her ſayinge. Alas I haue anguiſſe on all ſi-
 des. Alas now ſee I well appertly ſ I am ſallſt betray-
 ed, and yet I know no man liuing that for to ſuſtaine &
 defende mi right wolde in any maner diſpoſe himſelfe.
But

Knight of the Swanne.

But I will retourne me to my sweete Lord Iesu christ
the whiche is the only pillar & foudament of all verite,
and I haue hope that he wil helpe me. Alas mi God mi
creatour that by your diuine will celled þ spirit of rage
Daniell for to retourne to the Iudgement and to save fro
death the noble lady Suzane þ which was publi keli led
in iustice bi to fals iudges, the which with wronge and
brutally had accused her of the vice & sinne of aduoutry
wherin she neuer thought, as after ward before al þ peo
ple was notably knowen and approued the trouth by þ
good Daniel the which yelded the two Iudges al confu-
sed. Thou knowest my soueraigne god in like wise þ wrog
fullt and without cause I am accused to mi good & faith
ful spousy king Oriant. wherfore I beseeche and require
thee humbly that it wil please thee to kepe and preserve
me fro shamefull death and confusion of the crime and
sinne that I am accused of, wherof thou knowest me in
nocent and norblisg worthy. And than benignely recom-
forted her the said Squire, & after in weeping for pittie
he departed humbly from her companie. And the good
quene abode al way dolorously reclused and bitte in pri-
son vnto the tyme that god þ which in euery place succou-
reth his seruantes diuineli had purueied and ordeined
as afterwarde ye shall heare.

¶ How the anngell of god announced to þ deuoute her-
mitte Helias that the. vi. sonnes and a doughter þ whi-
che he had founde in the forest were king Oriantes chil-
dren, & that he shoulde sende yonge Helias to proue the
trouth. Ca.

lvii.

Ell.

Now



When hath god our soueraine lord heard & exalted the deuout prayer of þ noble Quene Beatrice, & hath set his holy aūgel fro heu- uen to tel & declare to the deuoute hermitte Helias that the .vi. sonnes and a daughter which he had fonde in the forest wher þ childre of king Orant, & that his good spouse Beatrice had conceived them of him, & had childed them at on only time. But þ peruerce Matabrue made him to beleue bi the midwiffe that she had bozne & conceived .vii. dogges which were issued of her wombe. And also that þ swannes þ his god sone Helias hent eueri day to feed & susteine with bread in þ ponde wher his .v. brethren & his sister in such wise trāsmued whan Sauary Matabrues hōldes man and his felowes took awate the chaines þ which they had about

Knyght of the Swanne

bout theyr neckes as he hath. And þ he would sende his
 god sonne for to besight the false Makaire that w wzoge
 and without cause had accusid his good mother þ in the
 quene by the embowment of thee peruerce. mattabun þ
 wolde haue made him to dye and the other. bi. chloze n.
 when she charged a seruant of hers for to slea or make
 them perishe, but forpitt that he had to be holde the he
 left them in þ forst where he the deuoute hermitre found
 them. And sith Matabun made þ. his. godson.
 ther in prison, the whiche all the day he was in
 space of. the. whiche. the. whiche. the. whiche.
 Justice of his sonnes, and of succession of time þ
 the. his sister should returne into their owne fortune
 and nature humaine as they were befoze. And of them
 would come a great fruit. For of his lignage should des-
 cende Godfrey of Boulton, that for to agment the holy
 faith of Godshal conquer the holy lande of Iherusalem.
 So descended the heavenly angel at the holy conmaide
 ment of our lord, a came to announe vnto the deuoute
 hermit al that to him was ordeined of god as is befoze
 said. And when he had doone his message he returned a
 the good hermitre abode alow attranswrd in spirit. But
 after as al rejoiced he called benignly his godson þ
 as, the whiche came fro þ stagne where as he had giue
 bread to þ swannes like as he was accustomed bi na-
 tural inclination, and recited to him all that the aungel
 had announed to him, saying; O godsonne, mi frende
 I will not þ ye were of so noble a bloud as ye be, wherof
 I ought highly to praise and honour you as wel for the
 honoure þ god hath doone to you as for your noble de-
 ces. And how said he godfather, what tidings haue ye
 heard

The story of Helias

heard: wite ye my lord and my frende said the good her
 mitre that an aungell of heauen cam to me & anounced &
 told to me in goddes name that ye be sonne of þe right no
 ble king Dauid & of the good queene Beatrice his faith
 ful spouse and your mother. But it behoueth that bi þe di
 uine com mandement of god to you be declared bi me all
 the tidings as þe aungel tolde me. So ye ought to know
 that your mother conceiued you al. vii. together of your
 noble father, & sch childed of you at one only time. But
 the peruerse Matabraun stepdame of your noble mother
 bi her consentment of the said wife that you your. v. bze
 then. and your sister resigned of her body made her to be
 leue that. vii. whelpes were issued of her wombe & whi
 che thei had falschfully prepared, and so wende your
 said mother. For Matabraun gaue you incontinent to one
 of her seruantes whome she charged to leaue you
 But the pitie that he had to beholde you moued him to
 leaue you al naked and nere dead for hunger in the same
 place where as I first founde you. Than shortly tyme af
 ter the said Matabraun harde some tidings of you, and
 sent some folke againe for to destroy you, but thei founde
 as than but your. v. brethren & your sister. fro whome thei
 toke the chaines of silver that ech one of thei had aboute
 their necke as ye haue, and forthwith bi þe diuine wil of
 god thei were transformid into white swannes, & sent
 to whome he gaue every day bread in þe stagne. But in ti
 me comig they shal retourne into thei owne nature hu
 mane as they were afore, & shal make great fruite, but
 for the thinges besoyesaid your father comaunded to put
 & hold your good mother in prison, & which hath be cap
 tive & space of. xvi. whole yeres. And now againe mata

braun

Knryght' of the S' wanne

Durue hath so muche done bi money & an' vntrue knyght
named Wakaire of your fathers courtte hath affirmed &
she had conseyued & habited with a dogge, & that she had
willed to kill and enpoysen him and & said Matabzune
wherfoze & king hath sworne to make to die your good
mother, if none befounde that against the said Wakaire
wil susteine her honour and his quarell in case of ba-
taille. Wherfoze bi me is ordeined of god: that I atmoest
and warne you to go and vpholde her good right against
the forenamed Wakaire and al & other it at willinglie
hath blamed her. And without doubt ye shal chertie vic-
tory and triumph against al her false enemies. & here bi
she shalbe deliuered fro prisen & established vnto grater
honour: than she had befoze. And also there shal issue
of your lignage a valiaunte and chivalrous prince that
shalbe named Godfrey of Beulion, & whiche in his age
virill shal conquer the holy londe of Iherusalim, and
other countreys of beyond the sea for euer to augment &
encrease the right hight and puissant name of Iesus, &
the holi faith catholike. And whā yonge Elias (wisely
taught & inspired of god) heard his godfather speake in
suche maner of that he had commaunded of god, he con-
formed him al holy to his diuine wil, and louing he de-
libereth him to go see the father & had ingedzed him, and
& good mother that had childed him, & of whose body he
his. v. brethren, his sister miraculously issued. And after
al these thinges premised to eschue pceligite & hermit &
his godfōne disposed the & he should go so clothed in lea-
ues & barfoted as he was w a simple staffe in his hande.
to succour his said mother, to the end & moze aperill & dy-
uine & vertuous miracle of god should be shewed in him
and

And than in weping thei departed amiable. And at their departing yonge Helias ententiuely besought his god-father þ it wolde please him diligentli to feed w bread the whit swannes his bzyethen and syster. And the good hermite promised him to do his best unti it pleased god to dispose for them as he had ordeyned. And than yonge Helias departed and went toward the Citie of Lilefort for to accomplishe the holy commaundement of god.

How king Oriant sent for the good quene Beatrice his wife for to expose to her þ wherof she was accused & to condemne her to death. And how Helias his sone arrived at þ Palais of his father for to defende & succour his mother fro death. Ca.

cxviii.



Knight of the Swanne



At this time came the day that the noble king
Plant had decreed for to condempne and make
to die his good spouse Queene Beatrice by the
false accusations of her vnjustly had ben made
So the knight sent for her to the prison for to make to ex-
pose in her presence the cryme of the whiche by the sayde
Makarie she had be wrongfully accused. And when she
was led thither publicly before many noble knights &
men of counceyl that there were presente assembled: she be-
gan incōtinent to saue the king her husbunde inclining
her knees in requiringe of mercy so pytiouslye that al the
noble knights had pitye to beholde her, and in lyke wise
the kinge was so sorowful of her estate that with greate pay-
ne myght he speake a worde he had suche sorowe at his
herte. Than he commaunded the false Makaire to declare
in her presence the crime wherof he had accused her to him
And forthwith he assured as a false murtherer began to
say on high. By I haue tolde you & yet wyll upholde be-
fore all here presente, that I haue seen her haue company &
habitation with a dogge, wherof she hath conceived. vii.
whelpes, the whiche sith ben yssued of her owne bodye.
And moze sure she wolde haue gyuen benim to me for to
haue enpoisoned and made to dye you and your Mother
my lady Matabune the whiche I wolde neuer do vnto
you nor to none other person. Now lady sayde the kynge
to the good Beatrice his wyfe, ye heare how ye ben open-
ly accused of a shameful, horrible, and vilainous forsaite
before me and my baronny, what defence wyll ye fynde.
your faulte displeaseth me sore. But yf that ye wyll con-
fesse the trouthe ye shall not dye, for I shall assigne your
lyfe in some holy monastery of Belygon for to doo there
penaunce

Chiffoz of Helyas

penaunce and satisfaccion for our synne & pray to god for
you and me. And yf you confesse not your dede: I promise
you that shamefully I will make you dye, if ye fynde not
any that wyl susteine your quarel agaynst him that hath
accused you. Als my lord sayde the good queene I can-
not fynde any knight ne other that for to susteine mi good
right in any maner wyl expose hym. But I promise you
and swere here tofore all by the faith of gentylneffe that
with great wronge and uniusly I am here before you ac-
cused. And how be it þ it hath pleased the deufne grace to
to sende me this yet I neuer comised ne thought for to co-
mit any vilany forsaite agaynst you ne agaynst myne ho-
nour. And I complayne me to god almyghty of this that
I am accused in requirynge hym vengeaunce of all mine e-
nemyes. ¶ And thus as this saide assemble was made
for to condempne the good queene to death in the kynges
palais, thither came the yonge Helyas sonne to kyng Da-
riant and of the queene Beatrece, the which hauinge a sta-
ffe in his hande was delibered in courage in in the confy-
dence of god to susteyne his good mother. And whan he
was comen to the gate of the palais he mette firste with
a boistous churle that rigorously axed hi what he sought
there. I seche (sayd he) a false and traytrous knight named
Makayze. And he weeninge to mocke him sayde that it
was he. And Helyas than lift vp his staffe and with a
free wyl hit him on þ head that he felled him to þ ground.
And forthwith came a sergeant that toke him & weenyng
that he were a foole for þ he was poozely clothed & barefo-
ted & mocked hi that had þ stroke, saying þ he should not
play w a foole. Than Helyas dre w him vigorously out
of the sergeantes handes and sayde to hym. Let me go,

Knicht of the Swanne

For by the faith that I owe to god I shall neuer cease vntill I haue vengeance of the fals Makaire that wrongfully hath doone great insurpe vnto my mother the good queene. And amonge þ other there was one in that place þ whā he herde him speake so, tolde him þ makaire was in the consistory in the hall of the palays where as he accused the queene befoze the kinge of certayne crimes the which him semed to be falsly imposed, & said þ the queene was a right notable lady & ful of vertues, & that w great wronge þ same day thei wolde make her dye. And whan Helias heard him saye so he came lightly to him and embracing him said, Gentil frende I pray thee that it please thee to lede me to the place that þ safest, & he led him straight. And whan Helias entered into the consistory wher as many folke were assembled to se þ demayne of the noble queene Beatryce, and yet many other þ came to see what Helias wolde do that semed to be a wilde mā. Whan the noyse came to kinge Dyant which demaunded what it was. And it was tolde him that it was a yongling as naked þ axed after Makaire, & saith þ he wil fight agaynst him & put him to death for to susteyne & defende the good quarell of the queene the which he sayth is his mother. He said þ king it is thā a foole, syz sayd a knight I haue hearde him speake wisely. And than þ king made to question him what he sought there. I seeke said he makayze. And than one shewed him, and than he approached to him & said. He a false traitor & vntreue knight I defie thee thou shalt abie. And therewith he gaue to Makaire suche a buffet with his fist that he felled him to þ grounde incontinēt and helde him so that he wolde haue cut his throte yf he had any knife for to doo it withall. But he was lightly

History of Helyas

taken from his handes, & than he fled away al be bled w
 his owne bloud. How well y many noble knightes were
 right glad of that hie aduēture, for thei were soze displea
 saunt to see him so vilaynously accuse the noble queene so
 patient as was possible. And tohan y king had seen him
 giue so great a stroke to Makayze w his fist he repzeued
 him & saide. How art thou so hardy to do this outrage in
 my presence. He spz said he, know ye that I am come hy
 ther at the only commaundement of God in likewyse as
 ye see, for to tel you the verite of the cause and of al y fait
 wherfoze ye ben here assembled presently in this consisto
 ry. And hoba said the kinge. And Helyas answered. Spz
 I shall shew you, but oz I procede anye ferther I will go
 embrace and kisse mine owne mother y I se yonder. And
 incontinent he appzoched the good queene & in kysinge &
 a colling her sayd. My right dere and faithful mother be
 nomoze sozowfull at your herte Cease your waylynges
 for this day. I shall yelde to you all Joye and consolacion
 bi the pleasure of god, & shall shew that falsly & w grete
 wzonge ye haue be betrayed of the y should haue kept you
 Than of this thinge y kyng was meruaylously abashed
 thinking and sayinge to himselfe. Here is some token of
 god, & in likewyse were admeruayled all they that were
 there present. Than Helyas perfurnished his purpose sa
 yinge. My lord my father I doo you to vnderstande for
 trouthe that whā ye leit in y keeping of your mother ma
 tabzune my mother the which was bigge of chylde with
 me my brethzen and my sister and that ye wente to warr
 and fight against your ennemies, your said mother Ma
 tabzune conceyued suche an enuy against my mother that
 she accompanied with the false olde midwiffe by siluer su
 bozne d

Knight of the Swanne

boyned delibered for to do as ye shall heare. And for trou-
the at the deliuerance of her burden she chylded. vi. son-
nes toherof I am one & a doughter, and also we brought
from her wombe echone a faire chaine of siluer at our nec-
kes suche as ye se me haue one. And whan we were thus
borne she made to trasport vs from this place. Than she
tooke the sayd litle dogges and gaue my good mother to
vnderstande that they were yssued of her bodi, the which
she wende to be true for that she perceyued vs not for the
great anguishe that she had. Consequentli she had giuen
charge to one of her seruantes for to lea vs or to drowne
vs in some riuer. But whan he was in a forest he behelde
vs on a plaine, & of pitte that he had to beholde vs he lefte
vs there al naked and perishing for hunger without do-
inge vs other harme. Sithen were we founde by a good
and deuoute hermite named Helias, the which bentne gli-
bace vs into his hermitage within the forest wher as he
dwelleth yet presently. And there he warmed and sustey-
ned vs with his smal gooddes as muche as to him was
possible. Than he made prayson to god that he wold pur-
uey vs, the which at his deuoute prayer sent thither my-
racuouly a layze white Cote þe sustained and nourished
vs w milke, & the good hermite fed vs w bread þe was gi-
uen him for goddes sake. And one daye amonge all other
as we were al vii. litle childre vnder a tree gathering of
wilde apples in the forest the hoüdes man of Matabzun
foud vs haming eche one a chaine of siluer at our neckes of
whome he made to her repozte. And we sent him agayne
for to lea or make vs to vse. And an other day as þe good
hermite and I were gone in prouision for to susteyne our
liues the same hoüdes man came with. vii. other felowes

The history of Melyas

the whiche tooke away the chaines from my .v. brethren & my sister, the whiche incontinent by the wyll of god were transmuued in faire white swannes, & ben yet presentlie in a fayre stagne or ponde in the sayd forrest, where as oftē times I haue fed and giuen them bread for to eate. Sithen finally is comē the auengel of god that hath rected al to the good & deuout hermite my godfather, in making him commaundment by god that this same day he should led me into þ place where as I am presēt for to saue mi faith full mother. And for this intencio I am come hither with courage dislibered in the confidēce of god for to susteine & defend her from scathe by naturall inclynacion, and to be sight the traitre and buttre Makaire that by his wickednesse wolde openly blame her. And for to make thys notable to be veriffed ye may make þ said makaire & me to be kept in prisō til ye please to sende for þ good hermit for to witnessse the trouthe. And whan his father king Dyrant heardē hi speake thus he was yet moze admeruailed thā before. So he begā to sprake to the noble quene his wife sayyng. How say ye lady, what semeth you of þ wordys of this yonge man? Certainly my lord I wot not how it is for I was at þ houre of mi childing so sore trauelled that I had not on me onte feling. How be it I know wel that mi lady your mother neuer loued me, wherfore yf she haue doone wel yf I beleue that she shal finde it. Thus I report me to god and this yongeling that I se ponder, whiche he hath sent me for my champion & I praye you that it please you to make him be entreated as your sonne and graunt him that he requirēth, desiringe aboue all to sustenteyne your noble honour and myne.

Knight of the Swanne

How the kyng Ozyant commaunded to make armour
res for his sonne Helias to fight agaynst Makayze, and
than went to the good hermite in the forest. Ca. xxix.



After these wordes the noble kyng Ozyant
made to with draw the queene Beatrice ho-
nourably into a fayre chambze, in praylynge
god his creatour as all recomforted. Than
he recited to Makabyne his mother all that
ponge Helias had declared wherof she blushed all red &
began to have feare, but not withstandinge she wende well
assuredly to have remed al the case. How be it y the kyng
made not oter great semblance for that tyme: After con-
sequentis he commaunded to supprison and make sure the
yntrue

History of Helyas

vntrue knight Ma kaire the which was doone at his co
maundement, for he doubted him of the great treason and
malignite comised vpon his noble spouse. Than after he
gaue charge to .ii. noble knights to make forge armour
propice and meete for yonge Helyas, the which by the di
uine wil was so pleasaunt and hardi of courage & echone
loued him with good hert. And whan the king had ordey
ned all these things he made maner as he wolde go hout
and was inuailouli glad of these tidinges he purposed
for to go to the good hermite in the forest, for to be al assu
red of that that his sonne had said & promised befoze him
and his counsell. And thus is departed the noble king O
riant with diuers of his secrete knightes, and is comē in
to þe sayd forest, and without makinge delay they haue so
long sought that they haue found the hermitage of þe her
mite Helyas. And whan þe king sawe him he descended of
his horse, and in their saluing reuerentli the king demaũ
ded his name. And the good hermite sayd. Syr I am bro
ther Helyas, and than knew the king that it was he þe he
sought wherof he was right Joyous, & tooke him a side
meali to be confessed of him. In the which confession he
declared to him all the case as the childe had said. By the
which þe good hermite in likewise declared þe houre, the
day, & the time that he had founden the .viij. childre in the
Forest & al that was happened by the selfe maner as the
yonge Helyas had tolde his father. And than king Oriat
knew certainlie the malice doone to þe good Queene Be
atrice. It is not be doubted of the sorow that he made for
the paine and greuous betracon that so longe time & vn
tristly he had made his wife to suffre by false and traitro
us reportes. O sayde he my right saythfull lady. O my
right

Knight of the Swanne

right deare and noble spouse, how may I make thee amē
des how may I satisfie to thee? O false and peruerce to-
gues much worse than deadly venim. Haue ye ben so har-
dy to make strife betwene the husbunde and the wyfe.

Haue ye made to lie in the head of tribulation betwene y^e
sweetes of weppynge those y^e were wont to be in all mir-
th & consolacion. O good lord god I beseeche thee of mer-
ci, & pardon me mine ygnourance. Thou knowest how
I haue doone it, for I my selfe haue be trated, & maligne
louist deceiued by fals reporte. In this wise discomforted
tooke the kinge leaue of the deuout hermite. To whome
he made for to deliuer a great some of golde and siluer to
the entente that he should founde and edifie a churche of
religion for the honour and reuerence of the glorious vir-
gin our lady saint Mary. And for y^e remuneration of his
vill children the which in suche wise myraculussly there had
be none: & he had & sustented by the diuine prouidence of god.
And than he returned to his citie of Lylefort with his
people for to conferme the iourney that he had ordeyned
of his sonne yonge Helyas and of the fals knight Maza-
rre, and to dispose all the matter as him seemed best.

How the noble kinge Orland deliuered out of prysone
good queene Beatepre his wyfe. And after ordeyned all
thinge to his sonne yonge Helyas for to fyght agaynst
his enemyes. Ca.

3.

when



When the noble kinge Oziant was returned fro the hermitage, & that he had knowen the verite of y. bis children he made incontinent to deliuer the noble queene Beatrice out of prison, & captiuitie, and restored her to al libertie & fraunchyse, the better to lone and honoure her without comparison moze thā ever he did befoze, so that she might go & come where as her pleased, as innocente & not culpable of that to her was imposed, wherof right humbly she yelded graces & praisynge to god. And also for her deliuerance made Joye in thanking our lord. After he made to take Matabzun & put her fast in prison with. iiii. sergeantes to kepe her & she should not fle thes til

Knight of the Swanne

til her case be redetermined by Justice. Than consequētly he sent for the vnttrue knight Makaire for to be at the Journey (ordayned by the kinge) for to fight against hyr sonne yonge Helias, that god hath sent for to susteine the iust quarell of his good mother the queene Beatrice. He lyeas than was wel armed by two knightes that þe king had ordained therto al maner of pieces of barneys right well steled. The helme of the same richeli besene as it appertained vnto a kinges sonne, with pꝛecious deuises to him condesē. His Weilde on his arme, & his speare in his hande the which he couched in the reest as al enspyzed of god. After they gaue him a fayre armynges swearde well steled and cuttinge. And finally they mounted him surely vpon a good & mighty courser well barbed & trapped as it belongeth to suche a poynte. And on the other parte was apparrelled the false Makaire, the which was not ouer glad of that, that him behoued to doo. For he considered well that he had no good cause ne iust quarel of þat he sustained agaynst the faithfull queene Beatrice. And mozeouer þe he sawe her all redy deliuered of pꝛyson at her free liberte, & the false Matabrune straitely holde in pꝛison. But al these thinges notwithstandinge yet made he maner to haue iuste cause in his saye, but there is no wisdom against the wyl of god. And whan they were both redy on the one side and other, there assembled anon many knightes the which made theim to sweare that eche of the thought to haue good cause in that quarel different that the one against the other wolde susteine. The which Makaire like as did Helias, but as he left þe feild him selfe confessed the contrary before the kinge, & queene and many other noble knightes and damoyelles.

The history of Helyas

How Helyas the noble knight of the swanne vainquished and overcame the false Makayze in Campe of batayle, Cap.

151.



Thus hath Helyas & Makayze sworne before the
that were ordeyned for to Judge the champ of ba-
taye, & of that, that should be doone. And for to se
this noble aduventure of armes there came so great mul-
titude of people that they coulde not be numbzed.
And also there was present kynge Oziat with his good
spouse Beatrice accompanied of great lordes & which desi-
red meruailously & the honour of the good queene might be

be

Knight of the Swanne

he suffeyned in the place. Than entered the .ii. champions
in to the place. & with yonge Helias that was apoynted
as a kinges sonne came many great lordes of the court, &
he was assured as he that had grace of god with him
to whome none may noye. And on the other parte was y
said Makaire as all heuy and malacolious of the saucur
and good grace that every man bare to him. But as al si
ers and proude he began to say, Come, come, drawe nere
my minion ye shal see this daye if your ouerwening you
th may resist agaynst me. And how be it that he word to
shewe himselfe hardy yet he said these words but for gre
at feare that he had. And on the other parte y noble He
lias said. A trayter I am nowe right glad to see thee he
re in this place, as I haue despyed, For I come to thee tru
bly in the name of our lord & at his commaundement for
to susteine veritably the Iuste quarrel of my good mother
the which vntreuly thou hast ouer muche defamed where
fore in my good confidence I hope this daye to shewe aga
ynst thee, the strength and hie prayse of the right arme of
god. Now come, come, sayde Makaire appoche. So I
will said Helias. Than with great cours of hors and the
speare couched in the reest they mette with suche raundō
that Helias made Makaire and his horse to founde to
the erthe. Of y which thinge Makaire was greatly ad
meruayled and sayde. Ha yonge sonne wyll ye shewe the
might of your pleasaunt youth agaynst me, truly ye shall
fele this daye that there is strength in my arme. wel wel
said Helias, come nere, I am all assured of thee. And tha
with cours of horse Makaire came wening to smite him
al vnwares, so that by treason he made him a litle wound
so y a litle blood y shed. And whan the queene sawe y she
was

History of Helyas

was right soz at bert. wherfoze she praised mekely vnto
god & his holy mother that it wolde please them to suc-
cour her pooze childe, that susteyned verite, & proclaimed
her voyce sayinge. Souerayne god of paradise that gaue
victory vnto the chyldre of Israel against the froward
Pharaon that vniustly helde them in captiuite. I praye
thee if it please thee to giue victory to my sonne, the why
ch it hath pleased thee to send hither soz to deliuer me out
of prisson, & reprove the treason and fallnesse that wicked-
ly & with wrong was propenced againt me as I knowest
the trouthe. And also all the assistentes were soz soz that
stroke, soz echone had set theyr loue on yonge Helyas but
he coulde in no wise perishe in the keepinge of god. And
whan he felt him selfe so traitroully wounded he resem-
bled the knight I taketh courage whan he seeth his bloo-
d shedde. And in eserienge high he sayde to makayze. A
traytre, false, & disloyall haddest I at this houre thought
to betray me. Suffiseth it thee not to haue wylled to be-
trayed mi good mother without wyllyng to betraye mor-
tally her sonne. Now retourne to me, soz I hope in I plea-
sure of god to mete thee in suche wise that vpon thy bodi
presently by me shall be executed the insuperable right ar-
me of god wherein is all my trust. well sayd Makayze co-
me nere I desye thee. So Hal I sayde Helyas in suche wis-
e I it shall not nede to retorne any more. And in this say-
inge Helyas broched his horse with his spurres and couched
his speare in the reest with suche courage so I he reuerfed
Makaires helme to the erth & vncouered his head. And
whan Helyas saw that he alight of his horse & drew his
sword of armes wherw he gaue him suche a stroke that
skantly he might remoue. And on I other parte came his
horse

Knight of the Swanne

horse against Hakaire's horse, & which by might of syn-
ging brake his reines behinde, & sith miraculouly made
him to fal from his horse, wherby yonge Helyas recou-
ered to smite vpon him veruouly smote of his arm with
his swerde to the crthe. And whan y false Hakaire sawe
him selfe sodainlye baynquished he begā humblye to pel-
de him to Helyas sayinge. Ha yonge sonne, that hast ouer-
come me, & I yelde me wholy to thee but I aduere the in
the name of god y thou tel me what thou arte. I am said
he Helyas sonne of king Oriant and of his good queene
Beatrice that am comen hether at the cōmaundement of
god soz to susteine her good and iust quarel against thee &
all her enemies. Ha noble kinges sonne said he I require
thee take me to mercy and pardō me mine offence. A false
recraftit traytre sayd Helyas thou shalt not escapt so. For
I wolte the consumacion of thi life or I leaue this feeld.
Yet I pray thee said Hakaire y it will please thee to saue
my life for this houre tyl I haue tolde thee, y trouthe of y
fals treasō that hath be done to thi good mother & to her
childen without to hide any pointe befoze the kyng thy
noble father, the mother, and the assyentes. And also I
shall name & tel where the golde smith is that hath cha-
nes of siluer that theuillshely & by violence were take fro
thi bzothzen and sister, wherby they were forthwith trā-
muted into white swannes as thou hast said. And whan
Helyas hearde him speake so he differred to put him strei-
ght to death to the ende that by him selfe, should be cōfes-
sed the treason that to his mother him selfe, with his bz-
ethzen and sister had be doone. And whan he called them y
were ordeined to make repozte of them two doone in the
sayd feelde.

The story of Helias

How Helias confessed openly before the kyng & the
queene all the people the treason doone to the sayde quee-
ne and his chyldezen. And how he was hanged as a fals
traytoure on the galowes. Ca. d. m. l. xii. c.



Dhan they came reuerently as to him that mira-
culously had obtained victory and triumphe
over his enemy. And he had them incontinente
that they would make the kyng, the Queene
and y^e knightes to appoche thither and tolde
them

Knight of the Swanne

them that Markys had promised to recite the treason þ
he and Matabune had doone to his good mother and to
her childzen. The which thinge was incontinent repor-
ted to the king, wherof he and his good quene were right
Iopous, and came nygh to the two champpons with all
theyr noble barons, and chyualry. And than the king que-
stioned diligently w the sayd Markys saying. Now Ma-
kys be ye confused, demaunde ye mercy of your bairnfull
ther. Was fir said he, yea. And what saye moze: Certain
I saye I yelde me humbly vnto your sonne, and now I
know well that a good dede is neuer vntewarded ne an
euill unpunished, and that none may resist agaynst thee
will of god, But indemaunding you pardon I shall tell
you trouthe of all the treason that afoze hath ben done to
your noble wife and to your childzen, and than doo with
me what it pleaseth you, for I haue well deserued þ death
That is wel sayd quoth the kinge, now say on. Sir said
Markys it is of trouthe þ Matabune your mother cou-
seled her with me of all that she hath done. And fyrst she
gaue the good quene your wife to vnderstand that she had
conceyued, vii. dogges, but know ye þ it was a lising, for
she chylded, vii. faire childzen, that is to witte. vi. sonnes &
a daughter, the which brought at theyr byrth eche of the
a chaine of syluer at theyr neckes. But Matabune sente
them to be loste or slayne by one of her seruantes named
Markes, how be it he did not so, but left the in a forreste
as your sonne hath sayd. wherof whan she was aduertys-
ed & that she had rydinges of them: her self put out both
the eyene of the sayd Markes so that he is yet blind. Tha-
the sent thither other of hir seruantes for to put them to
death, but they found but. vi. childzen, to whome they did

The story of Helias

nothing but tooke away theyr chaines & was about their neckes wherby incontynēt they were mued in white swānes. And of the sayd chaines Makabryne made to make a cuppe by her goldsmith, for whōe ye may sende & know the trouth. And of this that I charged culpable & good queene to haue poysoned you and your mother, I confesse here presently before you and your barōni that we neuer ppropenced it, but my selfe adiuſted it to her at thynſtygacion of your mother. And here I cry her mercy, & you also of the offence that I haue committed. And whan the noble kinge Oziant heard Makabryne ſpeake in this wiſe he began to weepe tenderly and ſyth benignely he came & embraced his good ſpouſe the noble queene Beatrice in ſaying. My loue I haue doone you great wronge, but pardon me if ye pleaſe, for I haue doone it by ignorance, whiche diſpleaſeth me greatly. My lord ſaid ſhe I forgive it you with right good herte, for I know well that ye be ſorrowfull of my greuous miſchefe, And therewith the king and the queene went and kyſſed theyr ſoone Helias in bleſſing and thankyng him of the victoꝝ and tryumphe that he had and yelded graces vnto god. And in lyke wiſe all the knightes, ſquires, and ladys with all the whole company that there were feaſted him and made Joye and ſolempnite for ſo hie & ſumptuous a myracle, wherby they ſaw the king and the queene remiſed and ſet in good loue and vnite of hert togiſther. Than by the commaundement of the noble kinge Oziant the ſayd falſe reproved traytre Makabryne was drawen to the galowes and there ſhamfully hanged and ſtrangled as a recreant knight that he was.

Knight of the Swanne

How kynge Oryant sent for the goldsmith the which brought the other .v. charynes that he had deteyned & rected al the myracle doone with them. Ca. xxiii



When yonge helyas sonne of kynge Oryant and of the good queene Beatrece had myraculously obteyned victorie of his enemy Makayze as it is sayde, the kynge and the queene retorned ammerousli together into the hall of the palays with their sayd sonne. The which by his knyghtes was incontinent barmed for to refreshe him. And after w so great Joy & honour he was so nobli feasted that nou hath possiblite to tell it. Every person retoyced them in theyr degree. Conuities, daunces, & sports were incontinent reysed in y palays. Trompetis, clerkes & mani other instrumentes of musike were assembled there to retoyce his company. The bisshop & y mergye wrythal

k. li.

the

Thysstory of Helyas

the habytautes and burgerles were honestly receyued. Open courte was holden to all comers, for to collaude in magnificence the sayd noble aduenture. That on the morow were made deuoute processions whereto all the people came in giuing graces and thanks to god of all hys diuine benifites, & at the retourninge was songe and celebred a masse solempnly by the sayd bisshop, in p^resence of the kinge, the queene, theyr noble sonne Helyas, and al theyr cheualers. & after masse echone were receyued better than they were befoze, i such wise that vs longe space of time was madefest, game, and tourneymentes so that there was neuer seen such. And during this fest y goldsmith was sent for, to whome Macabzune had given the chaynes of siluer to make a cuppe, for to know the trowth of hym. The which came incontinent and bzough. v. of the sayde chaynes and a cuppe of syluer that he had ouer whan he made y other, as it pleased god for to reconer y vi. childzen. And so freely became to the kyng and sayde. Syr here ben. vi. chaynes of syluer & a cuppe the. which myraculously I haue had of the surplus of the cup that your mother, Macabzune gaue me to make, & how was this doone sayd the king: wyte ye sir sayd the Goldsmith y your mother bzought me. vi. chaynes of syluer for to make a cuppe, such as she desired. But whan I began to melt. the first of the sayd chaynes it multiplied so by the grace of god y it weyed twice as muche as all y. vi. chaynes togither. wherfoze I reserved one for paynent of the facion. And sith I haue kept reuerentlye y other. v. chaynes in my coffre as pzeious and ful of vertue, the which I present you here. And if in this doing I haue offended oz myse doone agaynst your riall maiestie: I offre me to make

Knyght of the Swanne:

make amendes. Certainly sayd the kyng respake wylly-
ly & like a good man, & if ye haue committed ony wryng in
this I forgeue you hertely. Than the king, & the queene
tooke those precious chaynes and kissed them reuerentlie
& weeping and bewapling naturally theyr poore children
that by so great treason were mued and conuerted into
swannes. And soone vpon ycame Marke s^r was blinde
by Matabzune. and by s^r furour of her rage had both his
eyne put out. when the king saw him he demaunded him
who hath doone it. Alas s^r sayde he, your mother hath
done this euill. And wherfore sayde the kinge: Alas s^r
sayde he, whā your. vii. children where bozne she gaue me
them for to drowne or make them die to the ende to make
s^r queene beleue that we had whelped. iiii. dogges. But
whan I was i a forest I layde them all in a playre vpon
my mantell for to se them. And as I began to behold the
they began all to laugh vpon me so louinglye that for to
haue lost my life I cold not haue doone them any harme
but yet it grieved me soze to be cōstrayned to leue them in
that place all dispourueyed. And whan she wist that they
were yet alieue, & that I had not fulfilled her wicked will
she herselfe by her madnesse put oute bothe mine eyne.
And when Helyas heard him speake thus he had greate
pitie on him. wherfore humbly he turned hym to god say-
inge. Souerayne god of paradise s^r by thy diuine good-
nesse and insatiabable mercye enlumined and gaue syght to
the poore blinde man the whiche satte in the hie way beg-
ginge for his life. I thee supp^{le} and requyer humbly by
s^r benignite s^r it wil please thee to enlumyne & geue sight
to this poore blinde creature, the which hath ben cause of
the saluacion of my life, by the which he hath loste his

The history of Helyas

ceyen And whan he had made his prayers he made þ signe of the crosse vpon the eyen of the sayd Markes, þ which incontinent after bi the grace of almighty god saw as clerely as euer he dyd, wherfoze the kinge & the Queene with all þ whole assistentes were greatli admeruayled. And incontinent they gaue laudes and thankynge vnto our lord. with hym the which was newlye enlumined of his sight. In reknowledgyng the graces and vertus. of our saufour, and redemptour Iesu chyzist the which he had myraculoussly shewed at the prater and supplicacion of his good knight Helyas.

How the false Matabryne made the keepers of the prison so dronkin that they slept whiles she fled away. And how the Swannes, retourned to theyr founteyne humayne. Ca.

xxiii



Knight of the Swanne



Mow ye ought to wist oz we procede any fur-
ther that the same day that the Justes were
made betwene Helias & Bakaire that Ma-
tabzune beinge in prison made in suche wyse
to drinke them y^e king Oziant had comysed
to keep her that she made them to slepe all dronken. And
sith founde maner to escape, & with certayne of her folke
she withdrew her in a castel of hers named Maubzuant
to thend to kepe and preserve her from harme which she
thought should come to her, for the peruerce treason and
buttrouth that she had comysed agaynst the kinge & his
good spoule the noble queene Beatrice. wherfore y^e kyng
made greuously to punyshe them that had her in keepinge.
¶ But for to retorne to the subiect of the cronikill of the
noble Helias knight of the swanne. It is to be noted that
the said Helias knight of the swanne demaunded of kyng
Oziant his father that it wolde please him to giue him y^e
chaines, of siluer of his brethern and sister that the golde-
smith had brought. The which he deliuered him wth good
herte for to dispose them at his pleasure. Than he made
an othe and sware that he wolde neuer rest tyll he had so
longe sought by pondes and stagnes that he had founde
his. v. brethern and his sister, which were transnued in
to swannes. But our lorde that consoleth his freendes in
exaltynge their good will shewed greatly his vertue.
For in the riuer that ranne about y^e kinges palays appe-
red visibly the swannes befoze all the people. And whan
Helias had seen them: he called diligentli y^e king and the
queene his father & mother saying. I pray you my lord &
my lady that ye will lightly come and se your other nota-
ble childre mi. v. brethre & my sister. The which ben now
presently

The story of Helias

presently arrived upon the river that is about this palace.
 And incontinent the kynge and the queene descended wyth
 many lordes, knightes, & gentylmen, & came wylth great
 diligence vpon the water syde, for to see the aboue sayde
 Swannes. The king and the queene beyelde them pite-
 oully in weeping for sorow that they had tose theyr poore
 children so transmured into swannes. And whan they saw
 the good Helias come nere them they began to make a mee-
 tynaylous feast and reioyced them in the water. So he ap-
 proched vpon the brynke, and whan they sawe him nere
 them: they can lightli sawning and dylking about him
 making hym chere, and he playned louingly theyr fetters.
 After he shewed the the Chapnes of silver, where by they
 let them in good ordze before him. And to fyue of them he
 remised the chaynes about theyr neckes, and sodenlye
 they began to retourne in theyr propre humayne forme as
 they were before, and before al miraculys they shewed:
 them. iiii. sayr sonnes and a doughter. To whome dilige-
 ntly the king & the queene ranne, & naturalli kissed the as
 theire children, wherof euerye man had meruaile, & ioyed
 of the diuine miracle of god so notably shewed. And whan
 the other swanne whose chayne was molten for to make
 the carypes as afore is sayd (saw his brethren and his sis-
 ter retourned into theyr humane fourmes he lepte agayn
 all sorow fully into the river, & for dole that he had he pluc-
 ked almost al his fetters to the bare fleshe. And whan the
 good Helias sawe him so dolorously demure himselfe: he
 took he him to weep for sorow, & recomforted him sayinge
 My dere brother my freende, haue some what patience, &
 dyce not for you not, For I shall make someeke and hum-
 ble prayers vnto god almighty for you, that yet I shall se
 you

Knight of the Swanne

you one a noble knight. And than the swanne began to enclyne and bowe downe his head as in thāking him and syth plunged hymselfe all togyther in the water. And for him in like wise the kinge & the queene made moche lamentacion. But Helyas comforted them sweetly, and sayde to them that he wolde in suche wyse pray vnto our lord for him that in shortlye time he should retourne into his owne naturall fourme. And thus they ceased somewhat of theyr sorowe by the consolacion and goodly wordes of the said Helyas for theyr other sonne, wherfore than they toke benignely the other. v. children and ledde them to the churche where they made them to be baptised. And the mayden was named Rose, of whome afterwarde descended a noble lignage and worthy of praisynge. And the other sonne were named and called at the fonte after the good discrecion of the kinge and the queene. The whiche sonnes also in lyke wise were ryght noble & vertuous knyghtes and beloued of god. Than after their baptysing they were solempnely conduited and ledde into the palays, & there feasted in all Joye as it apperteyned well. And thither came many for to see them in laudinge and magnifieng the name of our almighty sauiour, that so miraculously shewed his great vertue.

How kinge Oriant gaue his Realme to his sonne Helyas, whereof he made to crowne him kynge honourably. And thā gaue him leue to go take his mother Matabri in the castrell of Maubryant, and there he brynte her in a great fyre. Ca.

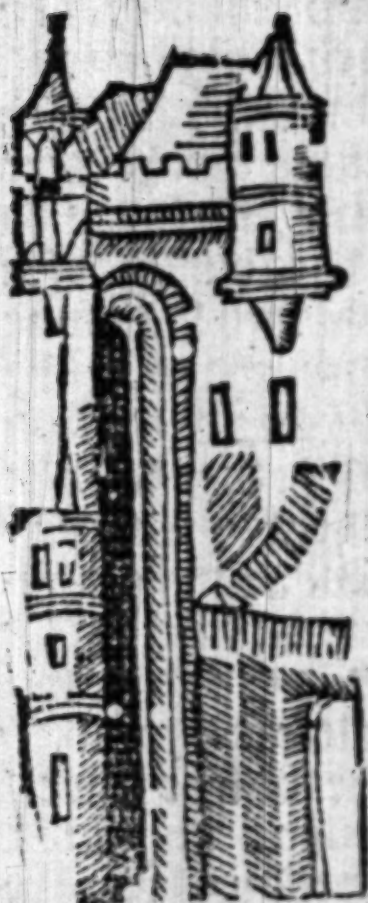
A.i.

After

Chistory of Helyas

matabzun

kinge Helyas.



After all these things afoze sayd king Dry-
ant knowledged the grace of god that was so-
wen in his sonne the noble Helyas: he made
to call afoze him dryers great Barons and
knyghtes with his peers which were alwai-
with him. And they comen he made to call in present the
noble Helyas & said to him. My right dere & welbeloued
sone. I haue knowledged & also my lordys her present haue
sene þe be fulfilled of gods grace, as notabli apcreth by
þe miracles & digne faites þe by your holi prair haue here
be shewed. wherfoze I depose me presently of al my realme
me constituing you king & lord of all my landes & coun-
treys, & wil þe fro hens forwarde ye be honoured & serued
and

and obeyed without any gaignayinge. And in þe witnesse
of this thinge, & for to shewe that it so pleaseth me, heare
is the crowne of the realme, the which in the presence of
the queene your mother and all the noble assistentes I set
vpon your head & giue it to you as king. My lord sayd
Helis I thanke you humbly, how well þe I am not wor-
thy ne sufficient to rule and gouerne one so noble and pri-
uilliege realme as yours is. But sith that it pleaseth you
so to doo, and that it is the will of god in nothinge wyl I
gaigne say you. For sothe sayd king Oziant I giue it you
with all my hert. Moreover my sonne noble kinge I doo
you to wit that Matabryne my mother the which I had
made to enpryson for the treason & iniury that she dyd to
your mother and her children wherof ye be one, hath found
maner to escape, & is fledde for warrandise into a castell of
hers called Maubryant. So I tel you that I put her case
towarde you for to do right and Justice, suche as by you
and your counceyll shall be founde & ordeyned, but I wyl
not be present. wel my lord sayd Helias syth it pleaseth
you so I promise you my faith þe I hall neuer cease tyl I
haue wonne and taken the sayd castel named Maubryant
and done right Justice vpon her that in suche maner wi-
th wzonge hath wylled to betray my mother and vs her
chyliden. And after that the noble Helias was crowned
and constituted king and lord of the Realme of Lilefoze
with all honour and triumph as afore is saide in the pre-
sence of his mother Queene Beatrice and of al the noble
prynces and knyghtes of the Realme, the whiche were
ryght ioyous. He made to prepare a lytle hoste of men
of warre to go with him to Maubryant, that is to wi-
te aboute, foure thousande Crosbowe men, & two. M. men

Thiſtoꝝ of Helyas

of armes, al cholen folke beſide ſotemen that were about
vi. C. And than accompanied w an. C. noble knightes he
departed fro Lylefozt, with his people he went & beſe-
ged þ caſtell of Maubryant, and to make woꝝt he gaue
to ſtronge and meruaylous aſſaute to al them that were
withiñ that they might nothing reſiſt. wherfoze he and
his men wel armed entred their in-balyauntlye without
any gaynſaying. And in entringe in to the ſayd caſtell eſ-
corted kinge Helias with an hie voyce to his people ſayſg
Upon your liues kepe ye that the falſe Matabryne yſſue
not out of this place. The which vntꝛuelye wolde haue
betrayed and cauſed to dye my good mother and all her
childdren. And whan Matabryne had hearde the noyſe, &
that ſhe ſawe the Caſtel taken, ſhe foꝛtified her withiñ a
toure with certayne of her gentylmen & damoyſelles we
ning to holde her there in ſaufte. But whan kynge Hely-
as knew it he came to the doꝛe of þ ſayde toure with cer-
tayne of his folke and brake it open, and founde her ther-
in. And as ſoone as the kinge apperceyued her: he came to
her with great courage & keſt her to the earth ſaying. Ha
falſe olde witche thou haſt betrayed my mother & made
vs to ſuffre ſo muche euyll. Yf it were not foꝛ the honour
of god, and the bloud wherof I am comen my ſelfe ſhould
ſlea thee. And that ſhe wiſt not what to ſaye but that they
ſhould lede her to kinge Dꝛiat her ſone. But Helias told
her þ ſhe ſhould neuer ſe him, & made to lede her downe to
þ baſe courte, wher as a great place was made w a ſtake
and wood & coles foꝛ to bꝛenne her as ſhe had deſerued.
wherto echone beſied. And whan ſhe was ſo bounde at þ
ſtake, & that ther was no more remedy of her life ſhe was
ſomewhat moued with contricion, and cryed vnto kynge

Helyas

Knight of the Swanne

Helyas in saying. Ha my sonne I cry you mercy. I know ledge and it is true that I haue wel deserued the deathe for I haue falsly betrayed your mother, & made her to vnderstande þ of her body were yssued. vii. whelpes, & she of trouthe childed. vii. sayre children, & which at their birth brought eche of them a Chaîne of Siluer at theyr necke but by mine vntrouthe I sent the by on of my seruantes for to droune or slea them, but god pzeferued them fro yll, And yet by my wickkednesse I thought to make to die the good queene Beatrece your mother, in imposyuge to her crime that she wold haue betrayed her spouse king Oriāt & me, wherin she neuer thought, so is it good ryght that I die, for towarde god I haue deserued it. To whome I beseeche þ he pardon me, & that the paine þ I shal suffre in dienge may be tourned if it please him to the satisfaccion of all my sinnes. And also I require you to pardon me for I die willingly, and I forgiue you mi death. Truly sayd kinge Helias I pardon you as to my parte, but yet shall ye die by Justice, and I pray god forgyue you. Than was wood and dyre thornes layde about her & fyre set therin and so she was bzent for her demerites befoze al þ people And whan the execucion was doone, the kinge with his people retourned diligently to Lilefort wher as he was honourably receiued, & thā he went and tolde his mother what he had doone saying. Mother reioyce you, for ye be reuenged now of þ pezuerce matabzune, for I haue made her to be bzente for her demerites. And the queene answered. My right dere sonne I thanke you. Iesus forgiue her soule. And thus they abode amiable in good peace wher of all the people reioyced.

History of Helias

How Helias tooke leaue of the kyng his father and of his mother for to folow the aduenture of his brother the swaine that appered on the riuer before a ship. Ca. xxvi



After certayne tyme that the victoribus kyng Helias had possessed þe Realme of Lyleforte in good peace and tranquillite of Justice it happened on a day as he was in his palais looking towarde þe riuer þe he apperceiued þe swaie one of his brethren þe was not yet tourned into his fourme humaine, for that his chaine was molte for to make matabrune a cup as it is sayd. And þe sayd swaie was in the water before a ship the which he had led to þe wher he was abiding king Helias
And

Knicht of the swanne

And whā Helias saw hi: he said in hi selfe. Here is a signi-
fication þ god sendeth to me for to shew to me þ I ought
to go by þ guyding of this swāne into some countrey for
to haue honour & consolacion, vnder the bounte and mag-
nificence of his holy and excellēt name. And in this good
purpose inspired of the holi goste he assēbled his brethren
and his syster, and came to kyng Oryant his father and
queene Beatrice his mother, & in þ presence of all his pa-
rentes he sayd. My right deare & honoured father, & you
also my sweet mother w all my bzothzen & sister & freen-
des here present. It is now needfull & conuenient that I
take leue at you. For here bi within þ riuer is mi brother
the swanne that cometh to f: tche me in a shippe that he
ledeth and gideth to the wharfe in abiding me. wherfore
know ye my lorde my father þ I render to you þ crowne
riall the which it pleased you to gyue me. And I remitte
whole into your handes the Realme of Lilefort. And th^o
humbly I take leue of you in leuing this noble countrey
for to go at the commaundement of our lorde bi þ condu-
tinge of my bzother. For I haue stedfast hope in me þ our
lord hath doone all for the best, and that he wyl leue him
yet in the fourme of a swanne for to guyde and leade me
surely to some good porte where as I may: to his digne
wyl doo some vertuous fruyte. And thus wil I go with
him, & to Jesu chrest I commaunde you. And in this say-
ing: he went and kissed the kyng and þ queene his father
and mother, his brethren & his syster. The which wepte
so tenderly that it was pitie for to se them.

Hom

Churche of Helyas
 How the swanne brother of kyng Helyas conduted þ
 sayde Shyppe wherin Helyas was tyll they came to the
 Citie of Rymaie. Ca. xxvii.



And whan Helyas had thus mekelye taken
 his leaue of all his parentes and freendes he
 made to beten his armures and armes of ho-
 noure into the Shyppe, with hys target & his
 bryght sheelde, of whiche as it is wryten the
 felde was of Syluer and there on a double Crosse
 of

Knight of the Swanne

of golde. Than after the noble kinge Oriant came & presented to his sonne an horne, and sayd. My right dere and welbeloued sone, here is an horne þ I gyue you, þ which ye shal keep yf it please you, for my sake. And be ye sure þ it hath suche vertue þ what man soeuer bloweth it loude may not haue anoy ne damage at þ pleasure of god. And I beseeche god humbly that he giue you Joyful going and honour at your retourning, and sauffte in your biage. And thus as Helias was yet in the palays with the kyng the swanne kest thre or foure meruaylous cryes as by maner to call his brother, wherof the king & the queene withall them þ were there were greatly abashed. So descended anon the sayd Helias with his parentes and frendes, the which came to conuey him unto the brinke of the water. And whan the swanne sawe hem he flickered and rejoyced as in making maner to mete the sayde Helias. And there euery man blessed the sayd swanne saying. It is damage of this pooze child þ hath lost his fourme humanto the which god sende him. But yet was not the time cōe ordeined of god that he should turne in his humanite, for a more greater welch that should ensue after. And there was the kinge and the queene with their children weping profoundly for pitie that they had to beholde their noble bloude so transfigured into a swane. Thā entred Helias into a ship taking general leaue of all his frendes. The which returned weping & sorowing for þ good Helias the noble knight of the swanne, that went at his aduētures in straunge countreis at the good commaundement of god, and the guiding of þ swanne. So the swanne put him apace þ shippe, the which he made to scoure vpon the water in suche wise that they were anon ferre fro Lyleforse

The history of Helyas

And thus conducted the swanne from ryuer to ryuer the noble Helyas tyl vnto a place ordeyned of god for to giue him a wife, of whome should yssue a fayre daughter that should bere thre sonnes, by whome should be gratified the earth of our lord Iesu chryst. Of the which y first was Godfrey of Bouillon, the which then conquered & possessed the realme of the holy lande of Ierusalem. The seconde was his brother Baudouyne the which succeeded him in the sayde realme. And the thyrde was thes brother Eustace the which was a right noble knight. But that not withstanding yet was he not a kinge as y two first were for that he sucked another nourice than his mother bicause the child cried. And the mother was maruailous angry, as hereafter shalbe shewed in folowinge by ordeyn the true cronycle.

How the Erie of Frankbourne made to come & appere by Justice Clarysse duchesse of Bouillon at Rymayns wyllynge to vsurpe her of her duchy, in gyvinge false understandinge to Otton Emperour of Rymayne, the whiche helde the course of his Parlyament at the sayde cytie of Rymale. Ca. xxviii.

In come alwaye to the effecte of the noble Cronycle the which I haue begon to treate to the vertue of that which is wyrtten in many other notable hystories. I shall leue a lytle to speake of the noble Helyas knyght of the swanne that is fletinge on the water comynge to the cytye of Rymayns before the emperour and by diuine prouydence to susteyne the right of the duchesse of Bouillon, as after it is sayd.

Knyght of the Swanne.



¶ It is so that the ryght noble emperour of almayne named Otton first of that name, þ had vnder him the land of Dardaine, of Lyege, & of Hammur, helde his syege of Justice & the court of his parliament in þ citie of Rimay And thither al they that were oppressed, or damaged cāe to are right of the emperour, that was a verie iust iudge & good Justicier. So than the erle of Frankebourke made to apere the duchesse of Boulpon before him, vniustlye to vsurpe the duchy bi false giuing to vnderstande. And at a day set appered þ erle demaundaunt in mater of nouelte on the one parte, & the duchesse of Boulpon defendesse on the other parte. The whiche had brought her daughter w her þ was a faire damaisel, And whā þ counsell was comen

B. ii.

History of Helyas

comen and assembled afoze þe emperour, the erle made to
 plede his cause. In the which plea he made iniuriously to
 pose and put in faite that the said duchesse had made to en
 paynen her husband, the which was his brother. And the
 her said husband about þe space of .lii. yeres was in strañ
 ge countreys without retourning home. During þe whi
 che time and in his absence she had conceived a boyme a
 daughter, þe which for the sayde cause he wolde say that
 she was not of legitime mariage. And mozeouer that the
 londe and ducht of Boullas was comen of his father. By
 the which he wolde say a promise by his pleding that þe
 duchesse might not si right possede ne holde þe said duchy
 as de wayze of her husbände, ne her daughter in lyke
 wyse as heire of the said duke, for she was not litigime as
 he said befoze, & that he offered to proue it, redaunt to the
 ende to take and holde in his hande the said duchy of bou
 liō as a successour & seul heritter of his brother (in his life
 husband to the said duchesse) and duke of Boulion. Than
 after the pledynge of the sayd demaūdaunt, þe duchesse de
 fended her cause to the best she might, denfenge al that he
 had proposed agaynst her & her daughter, whose honour
 he had hurte in protekting of thiniuries. Certes lady said
 the imperour, here is an iniurious mater & that wil cause
 your death if ye poune it not, seing that he offereth him to
 proue it, if it be not let by your opposites. Sir sayd þe erle
 to thende þe ye seme it not to be true here is mi gauge for
 to susseyne it to the vtteraunce, and besight it to the death
 that it is as I haue said. wherfoze she is culpable to die &
 not to possede the said duchy. Now lady said the imperour
 ye haue heard þe offer that he maketh yeu, which seme th
 me way of right, wherbi I cannot refuse him his demaūd
 and

Knight of the Swanne

And therfore make diligence to seeke a knight for to fight and susteyne your quarrell, by the which ye may denye that which hath bene now proposed by your aduerse party And yf ye thinke that ye may finde ony that will take this charge for you: I shall gladly giue you space and delaye to pouruey you. Than the good lady as al abashed looked aboute her if there were ony present that in her need wolde helpe her. But none wolde medle seynge the case to her imposed. Wherfore she committed her to God prapinge hym humbly to succour her, & reproue thiniury that wickedly to her was imposed by the sayd erle.

¶ How Helias the noble knight of the Swanne aryed at Arimate for to defende the Duchesse of Boulon, who therout receyued gladly. Ca. cxiix.



Tale of Helyas

For to retourne to the myraculous hystory of þe noble and valiaunt Helyas knyght of the swanne, which hath be somwhat interrupt for to recite this that afore is sayd: seruinge to the matter folowynge. It is to be noted that so as the cyle of Franckebourke and þe duchesse of Boulton were so pledynge before the emperour of Almayne in his parliament at the towne and cytie of Rymaie for the matter aforesayd, approached thither the the good Helyas guided by the swanne the which began to blowe hyghly his horne that his father kyng Driant had gyuen hym. in suche maner that they that were in þe parliament with the Emperour were all admeruailed to heare a sowne so lowde. Than in continēt they looked out at the windowes and sawe the swanne come ledynge a wypppe, within the which was the noble Helyas knight of the swanne, well garnysched of spere, swerde & armures as belongeth to a knight. And whan the Emperoure sawe hym arrive he had great meruaile. For he apperceiued the swanne that retourned with the wypp incontinēt that the noble Helyas was out with his armoures, wherfore he sent for him. And in this wise behelde hym þe noble Clarysse duchesse of Boulton. The which to this purpose tolde a dreame to her daughter, wherof she hadde visyon the night before sayynge. Truly daughter I wene þe our Lorde this daye wyll helpe and succoure me by his diuine grace. For this nighte me thought in my dreame that I pleaded agaynste the Cyle of Frankenbourke that by his Treason accused me of crime of death wherbi I was condempned to be bzente in a fyre. But there came a swanne sleynge that broughte me water that put out the sayde fyre. And of this water yllued a byg fishe the

Knight of the Swanne

the which fructified in such wyse that echone lyued ther
with til into Jerusalem & all the countrey. wherby I be
lieue at the pleasure of god that the swanne whiche hath
guyded this noble knight hither shal be cause to deliuer
me of the crime wherof I am falsly accused. And thus as
the Duchesse of Bomyon deuided with her daughter thy
ther came the good knight Helias, which at the commaun-
dement of the emperour arriued in the halle where as he
helde his parliament. And there reuerently he salued the
sayde emperour. And the emperour againwarde receiued
him muche honestly, in demanding him of his tidinges
and how he was thither come. Myr sayd Helias I am a
poore knyght aduenturous for to serue you trulye whan
ye shall haue any need of my simple sarvice. Than sayd
emperour. My freend I thanke you, and ye be welcome.
And sith you like aduentures in leas of armes and chy-
ualry ye maye finde them here without goinge fether.
And for to declare you al the case. Here is this noble lady
Duchesse of Bomyon with her daughter, the which y etle
of frankenour he her present hath accused her of a crime
ynough to make her die, & also to desceyte her daughter
of the sayde Duchy of Bomyon, yf she finde not some chas-
pion or noble knight that wolde defende her ryght ag-
ynst the sayde etle afoze named, y which hath casten his
guage for to susteyne publikey agaynst any defendaunte
that whiche he hath proposed. And now ye haue hearde
the case, y which should be a fayre aduenture, yf ye would sus-
teyne it. And I shall saue her in restablyshynge vnto her
her heritage, & also ye shall haue her daughter in maria-
ge, which ye se so gracious & a right fayre mayden. And
whan the good Helias had hearde theperour he behelde

The story of Helyas

the duchesse the whiche semed him moche benigne and of noble mayntene. Also he considered the beaute & gracious countenance of her daughter, & which to him was un- uariouly pleasaunt and a greable to beholde. Than he de- manded of the emperor that he wolde please him to give him leave to speake a litle secretly with the duchesse of Bou- lton, which he graunted gladly. wherfore he thanked him. And than Helyas took her by the hande and dze to her som what a parte, & sayd to her. Fayre ladye it behoueth yt it please you that ye tell to me and swere the trouth of this & that demaunde of you. And this same day at the pleasure of god I shall be your faithfull seruant. Was noble kny- ght said she. I promise you by the liuinge god and on the faith of gentilnesse that I shall tel you al the trouth of that ye shal aske me. Now madame said he by the othe that he haue here made, be ye not in any thinge culpable of this crime wherof ye be presently accused. Bi myn teuth my freend sayd thus, naye. And I beseeche god that he neuer doo me a- ny grace to my body and soule if I euer thought of that wherof I am falsly and without cause accused. And truly madame sayde he than haue ye founde a champion of me for to susteyne and defende your ryght in suche wyse that by the pleasure of god that it beay betwix this daye your enemy shalbe overcome.

How Helyas the vertuous knight of the Shewme dyd fight agaynst the erle of Fraunce, the which he co- quered and slew. Ca.

Knight of the Swanne



When the noble knight of the swanne had interrough
 ed and questioned the duchesse of Boulogne he came
 first to the Emperoure and sayde, Sir make hym
 to come hether that intuly accuseth this noble Ladye,
 for to be wille to make her dye, for I am redye for to de-
 fend her. And with these wordes ended the tale saying
 the secunde what demaunde ye. Ye shewe you muche
 to wryngte to mecle you of a thyng that I schere you

The history of Helias

not. Maſſall ſayd Helias here is my gloue that I deliuer you, in ſuchewiſe that the honour of god and for this ladiyes ſake ye ſhal ſe what an aduenturous knight can do And the erle receyued his guage. So was the bataile accorded incontinent by the emperor, the which receyued theyr othes, demaunded whan they wolde fight. Than Helias required the emperor that it wolde pleaſe him to ordeyne it preſently, the which he graunte. And the erle for ſhame durſt not reſuſe him. Than forthwith the ſeeld was prepayred, the liſtes dreſſed, and the champions ſurely armed as behoued in ſuch a caſe. Incontinent the noble Helias tooke his ſpeare, his ſwearde, and his ſheelde of ſyluer with a double croſſe of Golde, the which he ſet vpon his left arme. And on the other parte the erle was mounted on his horſe. And ſyth they came into the ſeeld arrayed for them. And there was preſent the emperor with his counſeyl and the duchefſe of Boulion with her daughter, accompayned of many lordes and ladies. And whan the duchefſe and her daughter ſaw comynge Helias the noble champion, they prayed god that he wolde kepe him fro harme, and giue him victory ouer his enemy after the ryght of that he juſtly defended. So incontinent was ordeyned the batayle of the two knightes, the which with courſe of horſe came ranning one agaynſt the other the ſpores in the reſte, and encountered ſo rudely that both theyr ſpores ſmuered all in peeces. And than they drew the ſwerdes wherwith they ſmote togiſther ſo longe that the erle might ſcarce doo any moze. But the noble Helias had alwaye good courage as he that had ſet all his truſte in god, and that with iuſt title ſuſtained charitably the right of the noble duchefſe of Boulion. Than the erle demaunded

Knight of the Swanne.

ded of the noble Helyas that it wolde please him to gyue
him trewes for to speake with him, the which he graun-
ted. Certes free knight sayd þe erle yf it wolde please you
to appease this batayle & that I may winne þ þ I demaũ
de I shall giue you my doughter in mariage, and ye shall
haue my londe of Wardayne that is a noble and fruitfull
countrey. And than answered Helias. Traytre weneſt þ
to make me of thy conſorce. wyt thou þ I wolde ſoner let
me to be hewen in al my membris than I wolde commit
treason as thou haſt doone, & therfore ſpeake no more of
it. For of me geteſt thou no merci for this dede. And I pro-
miſe thee that this dai bi the pleaſure of god which hath
ſent me hither I ſhall deliuer þ noble ducheffe of thy trea-
ſon, and I ſhall eſpouſe her doughter maugre thy wicked
wyll. Now defende thee againſt me. Than Helias appro-
ched the ſaid erle & ſmote him ſo couragiouſli w his ſwer-
de that he fruſhed al his helme wherw the erle fel backe
warde vpon his horſe. Than the erle thought to reuete
him ſelfe and came to Helias, the which he ſmote ſo hard
vpo his right arme that he made þ ſwerde flee out of his
hande. And whan Helias ſaw that he was dyſtityfute of
his ſwerde, he deſcended lightli from his horſe, and came
& ſeaſed þ erle by the body, & valiauntly by force keſt him
to the erthe. And wolde he oz not be arached his ſhield fro
his uecke. And ſith by ſtrength of his handes he deſeaſed
him of his ſtwarde maugre his tethe. And whan the erle
felte him ſo diſpoutueyed he began to peide him to Hely-
as ſaying. I knight ſaue my life and I ſhall giue thee my
landes. A falſe traytour ſayd Helyas þ ſhalt not eſcape
ſo. For I wil haue whol victori of the for to vège þ noble
Ducheffe & her doughter þ þ haſt ſclaundered. And therwith

R. ii.

he

History of Helyas
 he lift up the swerde þe he had take fro the erle, and gaue
 him suche a stroke þe his helme went of and than he cut of
 his he ad so he dyed mischeuonsly. And than the Duchesse
 and her daughter gaue landes and graces to God of the
 victorie of theyr enemy which they saw vain quyslyd by
 the grace of god, which had sent the noble knyght to be
 their helper.

How the good Helyas wedded the daughter of the Du-
 chesse of Boulyon. Ca. xxxi



Knight of the Swanne

Than after that þ noble Helias had victorious þe
conquered þ erle of Frankenbourke his enemy: he
came benignely and salued the emperour Otton
which receiued him benignely as a prue & noble knight.
After he salued Clarisse the noble duchesse of Bouillon, &
which thanked hym reuerently of that he had doone for
her, for he had saued her life, and the heritage of her noble
douchy. Than Helias took the duchesses daughter by þ
hand & embraced and kissed her benignely in saying. Mi
loue ye ought wel to be mi wife, for I haue freely bought
you, and saued your honour in champ of batayle. And the
mayden answered humbly. Certaynly noble knyght my
mother and I ben beholden to god & you of the right hap
py turney that this daye we haue by you receyued. Where
fore at the good pleasure of mi mother I yelde me totally
to you, as it hath ben promised. And forth with the empe
rour came to þ duchesse saying. Lady I yelde to you your
londe & douchy of Bouillon playnly and peasybly, & restas
blyfþe you in honour without any euile offer me as the
trouth is seen. Certes sayde the duchesse I thank you
highly. But as to the regarde of my londe & douchy of bou
lion I giue it freely to this valiaunt knight that notabill
hath conquered it. And also I gyue him my daughter in
marriage the which from henceforth with him shal be sayd
and called lady. For I wyll shortly go & yelde me a nun
or religiousse in some nonery, as I haue auowed to god &
which this day hath succoured me by so noble a knight.
And whan the Emperour called to him Helias the noble
knight of the swanne, vnto whome he declared þe publikly
and openly befoze all that he was duke of Bouillon, and
that him behoued to wedde þ daughter of the noble dame

Thistory of Helias

Clarisse lyke as he had promised. wherto benignely consented the said Helias. And thus by consentement of both parties was incontinent made apparaile for the morow to make the feast and solempnite of the spousalles. And al that night til on þe morow echone were delibered to sporte and Ioye. Knights and gentlemen reioyced the of this marryalous aduenture. Ladies and Damoselles daunced with them in al games and merve cheres, and in suche wise that it shoulde be to longe for to tel al þe games daunces, and turneymentes that were doone at the sayd feast. And on the morow was reuerently celebzed the marriage in the churche where as came many great Lordes ladies, and other estates. And after was þe feast made in theemperours halle, where as every man to his pooze reioyced with al his hert. Trumpetes, clerons, tabourins and other minstrells was there in that place assembled to make mirth melodiously. And to make shorte there was the greatest triumphe that euer was seen. Thā at nyght the good Helias Duke of Boulion sat with his spoule the which night she conceyued of him a daughter that at her baptisme was named Ydian, of whome yssued the pryncer & worthy pryncer Godfrey of Boulion, and with his two brethren Baudwin and Eustace. The which were so noble and valiant knightes as they dedes shewed after ward. And thus appereth that the noble Helias knyght of the Swanne conquered and wanne victoriously the duchy of Boulion with the swerde. And after that the feast and solempnite of the weddinge had lasted about xv. dayes, the sayd Helias Duke of Boulion and his noble wife disposed them to go into their countrey with their estate. So the said new Duke tooke leaue of theemperour in swerlinge
and

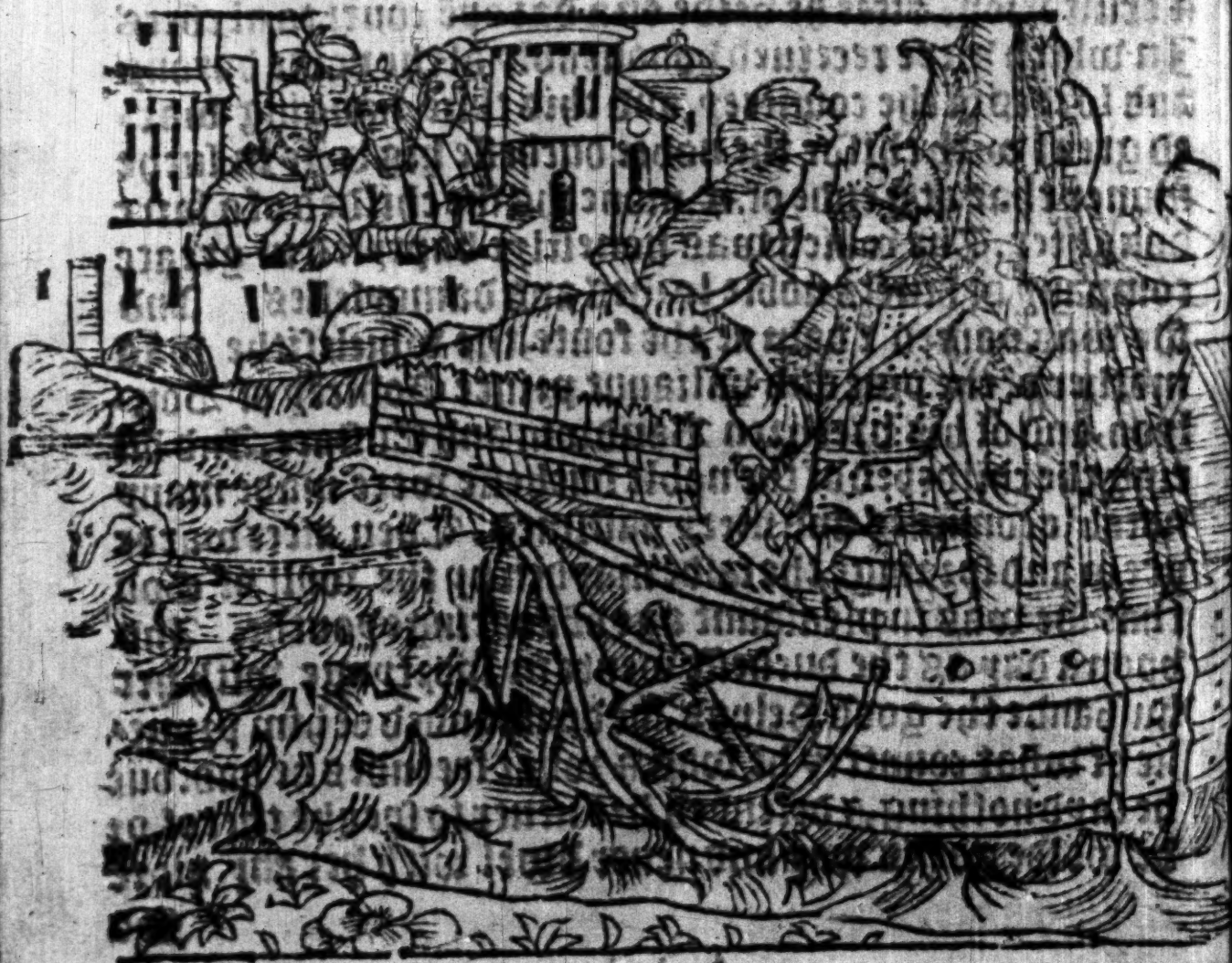
Knight of the Swanne

and promysinge to him homage of þe sayd duchi as it was
of right, and in thankinge him honourabli he departed
from him and fro al his noble barons and knyghtes for
to go to Bouillon. But in goinge he founde many of the
parentes and frendes of the foresayd erle of Frankebour
ke, the which assayled him on the way weening to suege
his death. But he shewed him so valiaunt and knightli þe
they were not þe most strögest, for he & his folke had pas-
sage at their owne pleasure whither his enemies wolde
or not. And triumphantli he came vnto þe said place of bouli
on wher as he was honourabli receiued with great ioye
& exultation. After he helde on a dai open court to al cöers
In which were receiued honourably al the noble barons
and lordes of the countrey, and this tyme hanging war-
ed great with childe the noble duchesse his wife in suche
maner that at þe ende of ix. moneths she childed of a faire
doughter. The which was honestlye baptysed in grete
company of diuers noble lordes and damoyelles. And
she was named Ydain at the founte, the which lithe was
mother of the pue and valiaunt prince Godfrey of Bou-
illon, and of his brethren Baudwin and Eustace. And du-
ring the childebed of the noble duchesse were made many
notable conuiues and mery pastimes. Then afterwarde
grew and spraiuge the saide mayden by the wyll of God
that she was in pleasaunt age of flouringe youthe. And
vpon a day as the duchesse wente in sportynge with her
husbande the good Helyas, she demaunded of him prouer-
be of what countrey he was, & what freendes he had. but
he sayd nothing, & defended her neuer to speake therof, or
he wolde go his way and neuer dwel with her any more

History of Helias

So he helde her still for that time, & they abode the space
of. viij. yere living in love & cordialite one wth the other.
And in this time durynge the auncient Duchesse mother
of the good Helias wife was pelded in religion, lyke as
he had promised and bowed to god.

Now Helias the noble duke of Baulton lefe his lande
for that his wife disobeyed his com^{ma}ndment, and af
ter the swanne his brother brought him to Rome to
the emperour Otton. Ca.



Knight of the Swanne



A daye as the Duchesse of Bouillon laye in
 bed with her husband Helyas there toke her
 a meruapulous wyll to aske agayne of hym of
 what folke he was comen. The which nota-
 bly he had defended her, or yf he wolde go his
 way. But as a woman that is lyght herte & wyll sooner
 doo the contrary to yf her husbunde commaundeth her tha
 other wise. It hapened on a night as thei were to gether
 she was not at her ease because she durst not say and fulfil
 her will. But at the last she was hardy ynough, so that she
 sayd. Certainly my lord I wolde fayne knowe of what
 place ye be come, & who ben your parentes and freendes,
 as other whyle I haue asked: wherfore I wolde fayne yf
 it wolde please you to tell me. And whan yf noble Helyas
 heard her say so he was greatli angri at his hert. And in
 anger sayd. Certes ye shall know nothing. And I swere
 & promise you by my faith yf to morow erlye I shall depa-
 rte fro this countrey. And at Bouillon shal ye se me neuer
 more. And I shall go streyght to Aynare & take leaue at
 the imperour & of you in the presence of all his barons.
 And wha the Duchesse vnderstode him: she began to wepe
 tenderli, & sith arose from her bed and came and complai-
 ned to her folke saying. Alas, alas my lordes and ladies
 now haue I losse the company of my good and faythfull
 friend, by mine ouermuche speasing, and could not hyde
 my courage. And anon after he came to the broode of
 her daughter Ydun that her father loued deuely, & tolde
 her therof. And than she adressed her to her fathers bedd
 weeping piteously saying. Alas my lord my father haue
 ptece of my good mother and me. Alas wyll ye leue vs?
 Withyn thyr help, shall I abide orpheline in my yonge
 dayes

The story of Helias

daies. Alas father leue us not for gods sake regarde your
bloud, and take pittie thereon. And than the noble duke
was meruaylously soze recomforted her sayinge. My
doughter make not suche sorow, for I shal wel pouruey
your mother and you yf god wyl, or that I departe. Then
in the morning Helias arose and tenderly weping he went
and harde masse deuoutly as he was accustomed. And af
ter masse he sayd to his knyghts and familiers. Lords I
require & pray you charitably that ye wil guide my wife
your lady and my doughter vnto the cite of Aimaie wher
as the imperour is, to the ende that I may take leaue of hym
honourably as apperteyneth, and that I may comynade
also to him mine affaire in these parties, for I shal neuer re
turne. The noble knyghtes accorded gladly his demaund.
And yet he said agayne. My frendes I you recommaunde
that ye be alway redy to kepe and defende this noble coun
trei of Bouillon and the honour of my wife your duchesse
& of my doughter. And so they promised him to do at his
good wyl. Now my lordes sayd he I thanke you al, pray
enge you that ye holde me faith as ye haue promised. Wher
ouer my lordes and frendes the houre is comen that I must
departe fro this place, for anon ye shal se come nere that swa
ne the which by the wyl of god shal lede his myppe for to
guide me to Aimaie. And as they spake thus together
Swanne arriued myraculously as he had sayd, & best a mer
uaylous crye in calling his brother Helias. And than he
tooke leaue meke of al his knyghtes, gentylmen and da
moyseilles that wept tenderly at departing of their good lord
with that noble duchesse & her doughter that it was pite so
to se them. And semblably al the Citizins wept & wailed at
absence & departing of their noble duke, that so well he
had

Knyght of the swanne.

had suffeined the in good peace & liberte wout to be, to
trouble them with on subsidies or tailies, but for to take
them from grete had annulled al false blages and set good
customes & fredomes wherfore they wende neuer to reco-
uer suche a nother. Than entred Helyas into the shippe,
where as he and the swanne feasted them ioyfulle as bze-
then, for the houre approached & he should returne to his
fourme humayne. And so they left Boulton and Dzew to-
ward Aynale to go to theperour as the noble Helyas had
proposed to do for to put his wife and his daughter in his
saufgarde with they noble countre of Boulton.

¶ Now the duchesse of Boulton complayned to the empe-
rour for the departing of Helyas. Ca. xxxii.



Chistoꝝ of Helyas



Accontinent after that þ noble Helyas was departed fro Boulpon, the duchesse his wyfe and her doughter Ydain compayned of many noble knyghtes and damoyelles prepared them for to go to Aymaie befoze the Emperour. And whan they were comen into his palays he fell downe befoze him wepyng and complaynyng her of her good husbände that wolde leue her, sayyng, Alas noble emperour I pray you yf it please you haue pitte on me and on my pooze doughter, for if it be not by your meane and benygnyte I shal lese this day the noble knight that here in your pꝛesence toke me to wyfe and spouse. Now lady sayd the Emperour is your husband dead: Alas syꝝ sayd she, nay, but he will retourne into the countrey fro thens he came whan he arrived hete in this place for to succour me, as echone sawe clearly. For the swanne that ye saw is retourned wiche his shyppe to fetch him, and he is gone with him. It must be than said the emperoure that ye haue doone him some offence, wherof he is angre with you. Than the sayd duchesse tolde and recyted to hym howe and what maner she had trespassed his commaundement, wherfoze he repꝛeued hyr, sayyng that she had not well doone.

And thus as they spake together: cam Helyas that by the guiding of his brother the swanne arrived nigh to the palays of the emperour, wherfoze he began to sowe bys vertuous hore, as he had doone whan he arrived first. And whan the Emperour had heard him he meruailed & sayd to the duchesse that he had heard her husband. Alas said she I know well that he wolde come hither. But it is to take leaue at you, without euer to retourne but if ye mooue him by your high sapience.

Knight of the Swanne

How Helias arrived at Almaye wher as he was good
ly receyued of the Emperour. Ca. xxxiii



At these wordes arrived Helias before them
perour, the which he salued humbly. And the
emperour receyued him benignely in saunge
Noble Duke ye be right welcom. Sir said he
pardon me, for I haue forsaken my duchy, and
neuer wyll I possede any thinge of it, for it behoueth me

The story of Helias

ingularly to retourne to the countre fro whens I wyll be
parted by the wyll of god. But this not wythstandyng &
all syle pzemysed right affectuously I recommaund you
my wif. And semblably my noble doughter the which
presently I giue you as your doughter. And I pray you
it please you of your benignte to be her good father & frē
de & to mary her what tyme shall come at your good discre
tion. Al redy of your grace & bounte ye haue be meane of
the cause of our mariage, so agayne I require you to kepe
theyr honour, and maintene them vnder your safeguard in
the franchise of your countrei, and noble duchy of Boliā
for I wyll neuer retourne. A noble duke mi dere freend, yf
ye haue made any othe therof as ye say, it is not of necessi
te to holde vowes against charite. For ye shal soner haue
pardon to breake your othe that is not lawfull than to ac
complishe it. It ought be misdoone, & so woztly to leaue
your wif & agaynst god & charite, ye haue also your satre
doughter. Y dian that ye se wepe so piteously before you of
whome ye should haue pitie. Certis sir said Helias me be
hotheth to go ligheli into an other region by the commaū
dement of god & calleth me for an other welth. wherfore
I pray you pardon me for I may abide no longer. ponder
is the swanne that abideth. My freende sayd the empe
rour, sith it is the wyll of god I wyll not gainsay it. And
than he came nere to his wif and his doughter & which
he kussed tenderly weeping, so that he left them as al in a
fwoone before the perour, of whome he toke hūbli leaue
in recommaunding the agayne to his good grace. And he
promised to do, and to mary his doughter nobly with
out faile. And so departed the noble Helias, and went to
warde & riue where as his brother abode hi in likeness
of

Knyght of the Swanne.

A swanne for he kepte the wypppe al way tyl that his bro-
ther were returned. And whā he was comen the swanne
retorned for to see him So he departed with grete dily-
gence fleting al way fro riuer to riuer tyl they came into þe
countrei of Lilefozt that was the loude of theyr natyons

¶ How Helias the noble knyght of the swanne retorned
into the Citie of Lylefozt within the wypppe of his bro-
ther the swanne. The whiche myraculously & by the will
of our loide retorned befoze his parentes & freendes in
his fyrst fourme humayne. Ca. 111v.

his sonne the swanne.

Kinge Quint.



History of Helyas

Upon a day as the noble kynge Dyrant sat at the table, and his noble spouse the good quene Beatrice wth their iiii. sonnes and their doughter, there arriued they 2 two other noble sonnes Helyas & his brother the swanne that had guided hi in his biage as it is said. And whā Helyas knewe the place of Lilefort he begā ioyously to blow his hoene vpon the riuer, in suche maner þ the voice thereof came to his father. The which incontinent arose fro the table as all reioyced saying. My wyfe & ye al my children haue ye Joye & mirthe at harte, for here is my sonne Helyas. Thā diligently they arose and went to the windowes of þ palace. And in beholding to the riuer they apparceyued the noble Helyas the which al redy yssued out of the shyppe. And anon there ran to mete him his foure brethren with they 2 sister for to welcome him. And there they embraced & kissed him for Joy that they had to se him, & after ioyously he went wth them into the palace before his father & his mother, wher as was made so goodly meting that it is not possible to tel. For incontinent his father and his mother kissed and embraced him weeping for Joy þ they had to receiue him for the noble vertues and miraculous dedes þ god had shewed in him. The one feasted him, the other reioyced him. They were all rauished for to se him and whan they had wel receiued hi, his mother aied him benignly. Spoke some whete haue ye be. It is now wth nere. whi. yeres þ we haue not sene you. Mother sayde he ye shal knowe it a nother time if it please god. And wher is sayd the my sonne the swanne that led you in a shyp. Certes in sothe sayd he, he is returned into the water. Certaynly said the noble offiour, me seemed this night in

my

Knyght of the Swanne.

my slepe that the swanne shoulde be turned to his owne
fourme humayne, pf that we had the two cuppes that the
goldsmith forged of his chaine, & make to be made of the
ii. chalices. And than set the chalices vpon two aulters
in the church. And betwene the aulters make a bedde and
lay the swanne therin, & after make to say two masses by
two good & deuoute pzeestes vpon the sayd aulters and
consecrate in the chalices. Than þeche of vs dispose our
conscience wel & deuoutly so þe we were worthy to praye
our sauour Iesu chzist. And I beleue that he will streche
his vertues ouer him, & he shall retourne to his fourme
humayne. Than kyng Oziant and Helias helde her coun-
seill good.

¶ How queene Beatryce made greate Joye of her sonne
that was retourned to his right fourme. Ca. xxxvi



Beatryce



. P. i.



Chan

The history of Helyas

Than incontinent they sent for the golde smith that had forged the two cuppes of the chayne of siluer. And he comen to þe kinge made to deliuer to him þe two cuppes for to make two chalices, as it had ben ordeined. And for to make it shott were wel and duli ordeined two aulters and a bedde as it was sayd. Than came the noble Helyas to the water side wher he found his brother the swaun, & made maner to call him. And familiarly he came to him, and folowed him as his good and faythful brother. And in likewise as afore time he had conduited the sayde Helyas, so Helyas conducted him to the church befoze the crucifix. And in the presence of the kyng, the queene, the y^e chyldzen and other lordes he was layde in the bedde betwene the two aulters, where as were deuoutly sayd two masses, which al they aboue sayd heard wel and deuoutly being mekely prostrated on both their knees prayinge almighty god that by his diuine bounte it wolde please him to shew his vertue. So it happened that the time ordeined of god was accōplyshed that the swanne shold retourne in his soueraine humayne. Ryght so as the prestes consecrated the body of our Lorde at the masse the swanne returned into his propre soueraine and was a man. And thus transmued he arose fro the bedde foyning his handes, and eueried saying. Lordes I thāke you humblye. Jesu by his grace yelde you the deuoute prayers that ye haue made for me, for bi his mercy I am deliuered & put fro great payne. And than wente he & mekely kist the king his father, his mother, & after al his brethzen & his sister. Than after þe masse were the belles solempnely rongen, and the deuin longe for Joye in thankyng god of his deuine vertues. After that beere made procession

Knight of the Swanne

cessions and prayynges to god. And at the retournynge was baptized the sayd childe, and named Emery. The whiche sith was anoble knight. And at the comynge fro the chyrche the tables were arrayed in the kings palaice where as echone werz honourabli receiued with greate hope for loue of y deuine aduenture so clerly swered tofore all. And thus the noble kinge Quant and the good queene Beatrice sinabli recovered all their children bi y grace of god, wherfore fro than forthon they liued holyle and deuoutly in our lordes.

How the noble. Helyastooke leane of his parates and serendes, & made him selfe religious there as he was nou rylhed to the good hermite, where he made to buylde a castell lyke to that of Boulyon. Ca, xxiij.



Thystory of Helyas

Whan the good and worthy knight of the swanne named Helyas had sith his retourninge abiden a space of tyme in Lylefort with his father and mother in the company of his syue brethren and his sister the which he loued of a synguler, sylpall, and fraternall loue, he disposed hym selfe to go into y hermitage where he had be nourished with his godfather the good deuoute hermit Helyas, the which was disceaased in our lord.

And in that place his father king Oriant had doo make a religion for the honour of god and memozye of his. vii. children, as it is sayd before. So the sayd noble knight Helyas assembled his parentes and frendes, and to them recounted al the adventures that to hym were hapned sith his departinge. And how he had espoused the noble Duchesse of Bouyon, the which had conceived of hym a fayre daughter named Ydain. And whan he had tolde to them as it is sayde, he shewed them his courage and that that he had intencion to doo saying. My lord mi father and you mi lady my mother, my brethren my sister, and al my frendes. I wyll here in generall recommaunde you to god, and say farewell, for to go amende my lyfe and yelde me religyous. For seynge the graces and diuine benefyces that god hath pleased to shew for vs, it behoueth to his diuine wyll that I take payne to saue my soule and praye for al my frendes. wherfore humbly I recommaund you your subiects that ye create them amply without to oppresse them with any greuousnesse. And my brethren and frendes I pray and requyre you all that knightly ye kepe and defende alway your countrey as good and valiant knightes. And in these wordes sayinge there was none that durst gayn say hym for the loue of god the which

che

Knight of the swanne

he in all theyr anguysshes had succoured them, but bega
all to weepe dozolozully for the departing of the good He
lias. The which all thinge, promised toke his leaue of
them benignely, & kyssed them al at his parting lounyng-
ly in weepynge, and thus he departed from them with a
simple staffe in his hande. Syth as a good and deuoute
knight he came to the place of the sayd hermitage that he
had chosen for to saue his soule. And there he was mekly
receiued of the other religious men by his father by kynge
Oriant had there founded. After that he made to edyfy
and buylde in that place a castel semblable & like to that
of Boulpon. The which whan it was ended he made in
lyke wyse to name Boulion, and by forest that was about
it dirdayne. Than in the sayd castell of Boulpon he ordey-
ned certayne markettes & sayres, the which he made free
and quite of all customes & impositiouns to all marchaun-
tes goynge, comynge, and sojourning at the sayd sayres
in that place of Boulion, for the augmentacion and pro-
fyte of the sayd relygion. In suche wise that he ordeyned
xxx. religious men for to singe and minstre the deuine ser-
uice in the sayd relygion. And there he abode relygious
obseruynge the rule that there was constituted, and vsed
his dayes in our lord Jeſu chryſte.

¶ How the pryssaunt and vertuous emperour Otton es-
poused the erle of Boulpon to the sayre Ydain Doughter of
the noble knight of the swanne Helyas. And how after
the dreame that he had the aungell of god announced to
her that she shoulde conceyue and haue thre noble knygh-
tes. Ca.

Chystry of Helyas



Whan fayze Ydain daughter of Helyas the noble kni^{ght}
ght of the swanne was at the wyll of god comen to
the age of .xiii. yeris. Otton the puissaunte Emperour,
of Almayne maryed her to the noble Erie of Bouleyn na-
med Eustace. And the feast was made in the emperours
palays at Aymate. And thepyther came manye great loz-
des and noble knightes, gentilmen, and damoiselles, the
whiche were well receyued. And amonge the other lay-
des was the noble duchesse of Boulton mothe of Ydain
The which in weepe piteously bewayled her good spou-
se the noble Helyas. Than was the feast greate, and the
wedding honourably solempnised as thempetour wolde
for the loue of Helyas. And the night comen the sayd erle
of Bouleyn lay with his spouse fayze Ydaine. The which
concep^{ed}

Knight of the Swanne

conceyued of him the prync knight Godfrey of Bouillon. And the same night in her slepe she thought that she found in her bed thre fayre children. The which she elacted & gaue to souke of her owne milke in so great habundance that they were well and substantiaily nourysched. And than her semed that the two fyrst had eche of the a crowne of fine golde vpon theyr heades, but the crowne of the thyrde was broken by cause another womā than his mother had geuen him souke of her milke. And at this point the noble ydaine a waked of her dreame. Thā harde she þe voyce of an aungell that god had sent her sayinge. ydaine god sendeth the greetting. Know thou for trouth that thou shalt conceyue of thy husbāde thre male childre which thou shalt nourishe wth thine owne milke. And god shall giue them his blessed benediction. For they shall requere the realme of the holy lande of Jerusalem, and shall deliuer the holy sepulchre of our lord Iesu christ out of the puissance and captiuitie of the unbeleuinge Sarazins. And therfore gouerne them well. And whan the good ydaine had hearde these tidinges she thanked and prayd our fourayne lord god of his good aduertisinge, and of the grace þe did to her. And thus by thre yeres folowing she conceyued and chylded thre fayresonnes. That is to wit the fyrst Godfrey of Bouillon, the seconde Baudouin and the thyrde Eustace. The whiche she loved and nourysched diligently. But in a solempnite of pentherost arriued at Bouillon the byshop of Liege, the duke of Brabant, þe duke of Frysle, the erle of Flaundres, the erle of Namur & many other great prynces and mighti barons. The whiche were there assembled for to make a certayne parlyament touching þe prynces of some affayres þe was to do
in

Thystory of Helyas

in the countre. So that the countesse was at the masse
right solempnely was songen befoze the sayd princes. B.
the whiche she left yonge, Eustace somwhat to longe fro
the breste, wherfoze he begā to weepe so fast that a womā
beinge one of the nourices came diligently for to apease
him, and gaue him her pappe for to souke, And whan his
mother the countesse returned for to visite him she foude
the sayd nourice the whiche gaue him to souke of her milke.
wherfoze she was so greatly angred and displeased f
she sayd. O woman euill aduysed what haue ye present
ly doone. Now shall my sonne Eustace lese his noble dig
nite for to haue taken of your mylke, wherfoze I oughte
well to hate you. Alas madme sayd the nourice for god
des loue pardon me, for certaynly I wende to haue doone
well because he wept so fast to thende to haue styllid him.
So the sayd countesse abode all the day by her thzee chil
dren without any meate or drink for the displeasure that
she had of that another woman than she had giuen souke
to her chylde. And after dyner the erle of Bouillon led all
the princes, lordes, and barons afore named into his se
crete chambze for to shewe vnto them his thzee faire son
nes, Godfrey Baudwin, and Eustace. And whan f they
saw the noble countesse besyde her thzee chyl dren they sa
lued her and them right benignely. And in lyke wyse on
her sede she receyued and fested them with her speche as
muche as to her was possible, and to the she wed her .iii.
chyl dren, but for to make the any welcoming she wolde
not ong arise, wherfoze her husbände the erle was for dis
pleased, but he conueyed eche of them to his loging with
out makynge any semblaunt therof. Than he returned a
gayne to her al angry for to blame her therof and sayde.
wis

Knight of the Swanne

Wyt ye lady y pe haue greatly angred me, whan ye day-
ned not ones to aryse befoze so high and notable princes,
befoze whome a quene of ony realme shoulde wel haue ry-
sen for to salve them. I my lord he sayd she be not discontent
with me yf ye please. For by the honour of your thre son-
nes I may praise my selfe as muche as any queene how
noble that she be. Now so said the erle. Certaynlye my lord
he sayd she all the worlde ought well to honour and prai-
se me for theyr dignitees. For they shal yet benge onys
more the death of our sauour Iesu christ. And shall con-
quere the realme of the holy lande of Ierusalem, wherby
they shal deliuer the holy sepulchre of our lord fro y han-
des of the misbeleuinge sarazyns, the whiche there is no
kynge that dare vndertake. What sayd the erle I trowe
that ye dzeme: And of trouthe who that shoulde here you
say and preferre suche wordes wold saye that ye had not
good mynde. Ma my lord he sayd she, holde not for a bayne
thing this that I tell you. For this hath tolde me and an-
nounced the aungell of our lord god by holy prophesy.
And at these wordes her husbände the erle of Bouleyn re-
garded her no more. But that he sayd, god giue that it be
so as ye haue sayde.

How the noble duchesse of Bouillon sent many squyers
and messengers ouer all countreys and regyons for to syn-
de her noble husbände the good Hetais knight of y swan-
ne. Ca. xxxix.

A. I.

By

Donce

The abbot.



In the holy wyll and commaundement of god
 y good coustesse of Boleyn ydaine was nouris
 thinge diligently of her thre children Godfrei
 Baudwyn, and Eustace. And in thys doynge
 helde her compani her good mother the noble duchesse of
 Boulyon, the whiche of tynes deuyled w her of her good
 husband Helias. For whom she had sent many messagers
 squyres and other in diuers countreys and regions to the
 ende that they might finde him, or in any maner heare ty
 dinges of him as she right soz desired. And amonge the
 messagers that sought him one her squyre named Donce
 attined in Ierusalem, soz to knowe and diligently cr quys
 red

Knyght of the Swanne.

ved if the sayd Helias had enterprysed the viage of þe holi
 sepulture for his remission. And in suche wyse that he was
 the space of xij. dayes within Jerusalem and in þe pylgry
 images and deuoute places eyrcumstances accustomed to
 be doone in þe said holi vyage, So he came into a church,
 at the entreyng wherof he founde an abbot of a church,
 clothed after the frenche facion of his religion. Whome
 he demaunded of whens he was. And he sayd. My frende
 I am of the Countrey of Gaule not ferre fro Boulpon, &
 am abbot of Saincteron named Estrarde. And thā in like
 wyse the abbot demaunded of whens he was. My lord
 sayde Doyce th noble squire I am of Boulpon properly
 My frende said the abbot, you be right wel founde. Glad
 am I of yent coming, & fith it pleaseth god thus we two
 to gethet shall retourne into our countrey. Than the good
 abbot Estrarde of Saincteron ledde the squire Doyce to
 his lodging where as he feasted him greatlie. And there
 they deuised one with another of theyr affaires. And it
 is to be noted that at that same tyme wer assembled in Je
 rusalem many princes and great Lordes, Sarazins and
 painims of Turkie. As the sowdan of persie. The kynge
 Dordype, Abzahā of Damas. The king of Dordaine. Do
 dekin of Thabarie. The kinge of Anthyoche. Solymen t
 of Alkes. The king Feliston. The kynge of Scabon. Do
 dequin of Damas. king Habū of Oliferne, & Corbozanc
 his sonne, the which were comē al thither at þe comaūde
 met of king Corbadas, þ in theyr presēce & durig his life
 wolde geue his rralme of Jerusalem to Cornumaraut his
 sonne and crowne him king therof. The which was. xv.
 yere olde. And the sayd new kynge was crowned by the
 consen

History of Helias

consentment of the sayd princes resigned fro the father to the sonne in great feast and solempnite within Jerusalem like as thei were accustomed to do after theyr gestes and ceremonies. And it is for to be knowen that the sayd Connumeraunt the new kyng of Jerusalem founde manner and space for to speake to the abbot of Saincteron & whiche for that time was in y^e cite of Jerusalem of whome he enquired diligently of the state of the princes of Gaule and of theyr maner of doing. The which abbot told and cited vnto him trouthe, wherefoze greatlye he praised & loued him. Than all wisely the sayd abbot of Saincteron demaunded of him familiarly the sauconduyt and acquite for the countreys and landes of beyonde the sea for him and y^e sayd squire. Whence the moze surely to retourne into theyr countries. The which the king Connumeraunt him graunted benignly, in presentinge to him larglye of his goodes for the wisdom and the honour of spekinge that he had founde in him. And after theyr sauconduyte made they tooke reuerently leaue of the king and on the next day in the morning they departed fro the holy cite of Jerusalem and they came vnto the port of Jaffe other wise named Joppen. And fro thens mounted vpon y^e sea and after by valeys and mountaynes they wente tyl they arriued within Rome.

How the abbot of Saincteron and y^e squire Whence departed fro Rome at theyr retournyng fro the holys sepulchre. And sith by the will of god they arriued at y^e new castell of Boulyon. Ca.

After

Knight of the swanne Ponce.

The curat



After that Gyzaude the abbot of Saincteror,
and the knyght Ponce had doone theyr deuoc-
ions withyn the cite of Jerusalem they depar-
ted diligently for to retourne into theyr coun-
tre. And even as they were in the feeldes al-
mighti god (þ alwai doth for þ best) wolde þ they should
be wandred of theyr way. And in such wise they were fro
their way in a place inhabitable that thei wist not what
to thinke. So it happened that after many traualles, pas-
sages, and labours they arrived nigh to the sayd castell of
Boulvion that the good Helyas had newly made to edifie
after the foure and construction of the other Boulvion
towards Dardayne. wherfore Ponce sayd to the abbot.

¶.iii.

Certes

The story of Helyas

Certes my lord heare is Boulpon, we ben in our coun-
trei. In our countrey sayd þe abbot I trow þe lacketh a
great dele. Certainly my lord sayd ponce, yet is this ca-
stell like & of the same fourme of it named Boulpon, and I
beleue that he that made it had intencion so to doo. And af-
ter al these wordes bicause the night came on, they went
and lodged them in a byllage nigh ynough to the said ca-
stell. And in thys lodgis they sent for the curat of the byl-
lage for to wit of him in what place and in what country
they were arriued. And þe lordes sayd the curat, you haue
passed the greatest forest of Dardayne and ben presently
arriued nigh to the castell of Boulpon. Now sayd the ab-
bot we ben of the countrey þe ye name, & it is well. C. Cle-
ges fro heng. It is trouth my lord sayd þe curate, I haue
be in the countrey þe he speake of. But for to declare you þe
trouth the Castell þe ye haue seen is called Boulpon le re-
staure, that is to sai restored, for that a noble & vertuous
knight named Helias sonne to the mightie king Oryant
and of the queene Beatreys his spouse went in a ship vpon
the guyding of a swanne, that so led him bi aduenture to
Aimale, where as he wanne a champ of batayle agaynst
the erle of Frauncebourke, wher bi the emperour made to
giue him in marriage the Duchesse of Boulpon whereof ye
speake. In suche wyse that he was about. viii. yere there
& than after he retourned into his reynow of Ailefort by þe
leding of the swanne aforesaid. And at his coming he
did doo make this castell & named it Boulpon as the other
& the forest about it Dardayne. And whan ponce herd him
speake so he wist wel that he would haue certayne tidings
of þe he desired, wherof he thanked our lord, & than wout
enasing semblaunt he said to the curate. Good speeþe king
and

Knight of the Swanne

and the queene þe ye say to be father & mother of þe knyght
ben they now abydyng in the castel: Certes syȝ sayd he ye
for thei loued so muche the said helyas theȝ sonne that
they haue leste Ailefozt & ben comen to dwell here for the
loue of hym And the noble knyght sayd Þonce þe speake
of is he dead: Nay forsoth sayd the curate, & it is not. vi.
dayes sith I saw him. But for to declare you þe vertice, he
hath be during his youth of so good lyfe that almyghtye
god hath doone & shewed mani sayre vertues & diuine mi-
racles at his holy prayer & prayson wherby he hath mad
him religious. And is now in a deuote religion þe his fa-
ther hath edified for the honour of god & in þe cōmemora-
cion of him & his brethzen, where as he prayeth god and
doth penaunce for to saue his soule. Verily sayd þe squire
I am all reioyced in this þe ye say. wherfore sayd þe curate
For I was sayd he seruaunt to the sayd helyas that was
duke of boullion, and am yet seruaunt to the duchesse his
wife, the whiche hath sent me to many countreies for to
seche him & thanked be god I haue heard of him. And so
Þonce abode mery there a l night. And on the mornynge the
abbot & he wēt to the sayde castell. wherin at comynge fro
the masse they met king Oriant, the queene, theȝ. ii. sou-
nes & theȝ daughter. And whan Emery the last transmu-
ed sonne of the king saw them & had knowē theȝ habite
he came to them & made them chere asking the of whens
they were. And Þonce said: My lord we ben of Boullio in
flond of Dardein. And what do you in these parties said
Emery. Syȝ sayd Þonce, it is longe syth I cese dret to
go i many countreies & regions, as wel en this kyngdome be-
yonde þe se for to finde a noble knyght & a sirane guided &
ledde out of boullion, whan he left his wife the noble du-
chesse

Chystory of Helyas

cheste of Boulpon, whose seruant I am. And whan Emery hearde him he begā to laugh, Certes my frēde it is my brother Helyas. My lordē sayd Ponce, I wēt he yet: Yea truly my scende sayd Emery, & ye shall se him if god wyl or ye passe this country. I pray you therof sayd Ponce.

Than Emery called the king, the quene, his brethzen, & his suster and say. Certaynly if ye will heare any tidinges of the Duchesse of Boulpon my brother's wiffe, and of Y. Dan his noble daughter, here be to notable lordes, that be of the same countrei. And forth w̄ they came to Ponce, the which recyted to them the contēcy of the noble Duchesse of Boulion & was meruailously sorowful for that her good husbād Helyas had left her. And of her noble daughter Y. Daine, of whome he tolde them to haue receyued certayne tidinges & she was married to the mighti erle of Bouleyn. Than sayd the king & the quene, wolde god & they were here. And ther w̄ they embraced & kissed & abbot & ponce. And than he led them into the castel, wher they were feasted & serued of the king sonnes & other barons. In & whiche chere they sojourned a whole day in visiting all & places of the castell. And on the morow the noble Emery led the abbot of Sainterō and the good squire Ponce to the place where as his brother Helyas was religous. And there his brother Emery founde him kneeling on his knees befoze the high auter in the churche. So he salued him humbly. And reuerently he yelded him his salute in saying. I praye brother Emery, what is ther of newe: Brother said Emery. Here ben two notable lordes that I bring you. The which will tell you tidinges of your wiffe & Duchesse of Boulpon & of your daughter ydaine, & is married to the erle of Bouleyn. Thā Helyas knew ponce for he had afore

K night of the Swanne

Then him. wherfore humbly he came and embraced and kys-
sed him sayinge. My freende ye be welcome, tell me yf it
please you some tidinges of my wyfe, and of my daughter
ydain. And than he tolde him how she had sent him into
many countrees, & of his adventures syth his departing
And than he asked him if he wolde retourne into his coun-
tree of Boulton. Certes sayd Helias, nay. for neuer by
will of god shall I departe fro this regyon where as I
pretende to saue my soule be his holy & worthy grace. cer-
tes my lord said he, I am right glade to see you, & also mi-
ladi shal be greatly reioyced for to here of you. My friend
sayde Helias ye shall recommaunde me singularly to her
good grace, & also to my daughter ydain. Of whom I am
right ioyous yf she is honourably married with yf noble er-
le of Boulton. And than in weeping he tooke the abbot of
Sauteron by the hande & with Donce ledde him to se all
the places of his religiō. Than with his brother Emery
he made them good chere and fested them greatly and af-
ter all these thinges the squire Dōce prayed him humbly
of his good pleasure to geue him some true token, wher-
by the Duchesse myght notably knowe that he had doone
his deuoyze to fynde him. And Helias sayd. My friend ye
speake wyfely. And for a toke of me ye shall bere her this
rpyge. The which oz now she gaue me ryght amercouly.
Than after the good Helias gaue grete gyftes to yf ab-
bot & to Donce. And with them he sent to his wyfe & to his
daughter ydain grete treasures and many farze gyftes
Than tooke they leue humbly of the sayd Helias & with
his brother Emery they retourned to the castel of Boulton
restaure, where they were agayne honourably receyued.
And than kyng Doyant and yf quene his wyfe prynces

Thistory of Helyas

ryche & sumtuous giftes. The whiche they sent to theyꝝ
Doughter the noble duchesse of Boulpon, and also to her
Doughter the noble countesse of Boleon, in recomman-
ding them singularly to theyꝝ good grace. Thā the abbot
of saincteron and the squyre Wonce took reuerently theyꝝ
leue of the noble king Oziant, and of the queene his wife
and of al theyꝝ courte, and departed fro thē soꝝ to retourn
into theyꝝ countrey, in the place of Boulpon i Dardayr.

How the squyre Wonce arriued at Boulpon soꝝ to bere
tydings to the duchesse of the noble Helyas knight of
the swanne, the whiche was at that time yolden a reli-
gious. Ca.



Upon

Upon a daye of the feast of the asceneyon of our
 lord Jhesu chryst as y^e erle of Boulyo, his wiffe
 y^e dain, and the noble Duchesse her mother wth
 many other lordes and damoyelles were syt-
 ting at the table & helde court plenayze by ma-
 ner of consolacion, arrived wth once the noble squire at the
 castell of Boulyon, the whiche led a mule charged wth dy-
 uers gistes & riche presentes & came into the halle wher
 as was the feast aforesayd. And incontinent y^e the noble
 Duchesse apperceyued him she arose fro the table, & came
 tenderly embracing him and sayde. My freende wth once ye
 be right welcome. Haue ye founde my husbaude or can ye
 ony tidinges of him. Cytes madame sayde wth once. yea.
 By the same token that here is his ryng that he gaue
 me to beare to you. And whan she saw the ryng she was
 al reioyced, and kisse it mo than an. C. times, in weeping
 & bewayl- ng piteously the absence of her good and layth-
 ful husbaude Helyas, and than sayde. Truly wth once my
 freende this is a good token that ye haue founde him.
 Madam said he highl^y I haue also brought a mule char-
 ged wth many notable gistes and riche presentes that he &
 his mighty parentes haue sent to you. and to my ladi the
 countesse y^e dain your noble doughter. For I doo you no-
 tably to wit that he is sonne of the ryght puyssant and re-
 doubted king of Lylefozt named Oziant, and of the illu-
 strid and noble quene Beatrice his wiffe And eke he hath
 fve noble brethzen and all valyaunt knightes. And he
 hath also a fayze sister, & moztly he is of right great kine
 of these wordes was greatly ioyed y^e Duchesse his wiffe
 his doughter & the noble erle, & such wyse y^e they wept for
 ioye y^e they had at they^r hertes to here suche good tidin-
 ges

ges. Than the sayd Ponce recited to them that he was religious in a farze abbat that his father and he had made to constytute and edifie for the honour of god. And how he had sene all with the abbot of Sainteron, in retourning fro the holy cite of Jerusalem. where vpon say the the cronicle & gest of this myraculous history that whā y noble Duchesse of Boulyon knew & vnderstoode that her good husbände helyas was yolden religious, she made incontinent to prepaye her estate. And w her daughter ydayn she set her on the way with the sayd Ponce, which they tooke for to guyde the to the religion where he had found the good Helyas. Than toke they leaue of the noble erle of Boulyon in recomunaunding him his thre sonnes Godfrey, Baudwin, and Eustace, the which were all redy in age adolescent. And after they departed fro Boulyon and trauallyed so longe by mountaynes and hales that they came to the place of religion where as the noble Helyas was yolden religious. Than the noble Duchesse his wife w her daughter ydayn demaunded so muche after him that they came and found him lieng in a bedde right soze sicke. And god knoweth than in what ioye they beheld eche o ther. The wife be wept her husbände, & daughter bewailed her father. And he on y other side wept tenderly to se there his wife and his daughter, so that all they that behelde them wept for sorow and pitie. And after that they had be there a space of time, the good Helyas was so like & weyke of paynes and traualles that he had susteyned in his yough that holli and deuoutly he desceased in our lordes Jesu Chryst, the which called hym to be with hym for to rewarde him for y paynes and greuous, betracions that he had suffered and wyllingly bozne at his holt & dy-
uine

kinge of the romanes
wine commendement and to geue him space in the glozy
pardurable with the happi saines of the realme of para
dyse, And whan the duchesse saw her husbande dead, she
was so sorowfull at her hert that she disceased with him
in our lord. wherfore her noble daughter, ydain and all
the lordes and dauphelles þe were comē to her made suche
sorow & pitie was to see. And after al thinges all the reli
gious of the sayd abbay assembled them a honestly with
great reuerence they buried þe noble Helias and his wyfe
in one tombe befoze the high altier of the churche. And
they seruice was well and deuoutly doone as it appertei
ned to they estate. Thā the noble ydain departed a gene
muche of her goodes to the sayd abbaye for the honour of
god and for the loue of her father and mother the which
there were engraued. also departed fro þe place with her.
folke, & returned into her countrey and duchy of bouillon.
where as she founde Eustace her noble husbande. To whō
she recited in weeping how her good father and mother
were disceased in our lord, and bothe buried together by þe
diuine wyll. And whā the sayd Eustace her husband heard
these tidinges he was muche sorowfull and dolen at his
herce. And he wyth hys wyfe and all hys household dyd
beare the boole as longe as it was expedient for such a no
ble p. ince.

How Ydain the noble duchesse of Bouillon enterpre
ned her thre sonnes, Godfrey, Baudouyn, and Eustace
in all maner of good operacions, betturs, and wa
ners, &c.

R. lii.

iii.

After



Baudwin. Eustace



After that y noble ydain duchesse of Boulron
was returned into her countrei she kept syn-
gulerly her thre sonnes Godfrey, Baudwin
& Eustace. whiche she made to be instructe by
a wyse mayster. And she herselfe endoctryned
them in all good maners & honeste of life sayinge Alwaie
aboue all thinges geue laude and gloze to god i all yow
wozkes. and sayd. My childe ye ought to knowe y ye be
extract & issued of a lignage as noble and vertuous as is
possible to be. That is to wete of the noble knight of the
swanne

Knicht of the swanne

Swaine sounre of the puyssaunt king Ozyant & of þ good
queene Beatrece his spowse. And ye haue. v. kiges and a
queene of your excellēt and illustrious parent. The why
che all myraculously & by þ announcement of an anngel
haue ben producte in valoure and you also in lyke wyse.
And therfore than my sayre chyldezen abide alway in the
fearre and loue of god our souerayne protectour in gining
him laude and honour. Be swet, soft, and curteys to your
subgettes without oppressing or domaginge them in any
wyse yf ye be able and possible to reedifie the churches of
god, and offre willingly your owne bodie in sacrifice in
susteyning the holy saythe catholyke. Keepe and defende
Justly your countre. Bere and susteyne the right of pooze
widowes and orphelins. Distribute a deele of your good
des to the neddy, conforthe the sorowfull, and thinke for to
saue your soules for to haue þ grace of god. And I pro-
myse you my chylde that yf ye gouerne you thus ye shal
prosper in this worlde and haue heauen at your ende.
And in this maner where bi theyr good mother ydainte
nourly introduct and taught thesethree yong sonnes god
frey, Baudwyn and Eustace the, whiche were al way to-
gether in theyr youthe, often tunces to remembre the good
and helthfull doctrine that she had giuen them. And sem-
blably also they were bi theyr notable scole maister stuf-
fently instructe in science and in all good maners.

¶ Now the thre noble brethzen Godfrey, Baudwyn, &
Eustace appropried and vled them in all maner of noble
games and assayes of worthynesse. Ca.

liii.

And



And whan in thez adoleſcence they were ſom-
 what comen to the age of ſtrength, they begi
 to practyſe them in ſhootinge with theyz bow
 and arbelſce, to playe with the ſwerde and
 Buckeler, to runne, to juſt, to play with a poll axe, And
 to wreſtle. And began to bere harneys, to ronne horſes &
 to approue theſe as deſpytinge to be good and faythful kni-
 ghtes to ſuſteyne the faith of god. And thus theſe grew al
 thre in ſtrength and height meruaylously & in ſuch wyſe
 that of theyz age was none found like to them they were
 fayre and well ſourmed of bodye, wyſe, curteys, and well
 taught. They ſerued god gladly, they made them to be be-
 loued of great & ſmall. And echone honoured the echone
 gaue them benediccion, and alſo they gaue grace of great
 Princes and noble Lordes. And whan God ſawe the
tyſte

Knight of the swanne

first bozne was comen to the age of .xv. yeres accomplished his good mother Ydain made to dispose and put him in poynt as to him well apperteined for to go to Rimate to thempetour for to receyue the ozdze of knight hode, & sayd to him. My fayre sonne Godfres ye be the eldest of your brethzen and are of age competent for to be knight. wherfoze here is a robe of honour the which I haue diligently pzepaired for you to receyue the noble degree and vertuous title. Your squires & pages ben wel appointed of liuetayes to you apperteyning, & all they of yours also. wherfoze ye shall go into the cite of Rimate to thempetour the which hath good knowledge of you bycause of your graunt father the noble and vertuous knyght of the swanne, and my good mother his wyfe, whose soules god pardō. And so of hi you shalbe made knight in giuig you the swearde of honour. And your two brethzen shall go with you for to beare you company. And than answered Godfres My right deary lady & mother I hertelye thāke you whā you procure me suche honour. And I am al redy to departe & go towarde thempetour at your good commaundement. Now go than my sonne your case is al redy. And than departed Godfres of Boulyon mounted upon a horse of pzece accompanied of his two brethzen, & of many noble and gentill knightes, squires, and pages. The which haue riden so longe & they came to Rimate. And incontinent the good Godfres came and peiented hem tofoze the emperour, in saluinge him de bonapze. And he receiued him gladly and al his company w good hert saying. Right noble chylde, and my deare frende, ye be right hertli welcōe. I know you to be extract & illued of the moste noble and illustrious Melias knyght of the

Thyſtozy of Helyas

ſwaſne. Therfoze for the loue of him and of your mother
his daughter. the which I haue married and conſoynd
my noble palays by theyr good conſentement wherfoze by
the pleaſure of god I ſhal aduise you knight or ye departe
from me. Syr ſayd Godfrey, I thanke you humbly. And
than the noble emperour made to prepare and ordyne a
ſolowpne feaſt for the loue of Godfrey of Boulton. Than
incontinent after the feaſt were ordeyned Juſtes, tourne
mētes and many other games and noble ſeaſes of armes
In the which the noble Godfrey ſerued him right prue
and valiaunt, in ſuche wiſe that by the ſayde Emperour
he was made and ordeyned knight with ryght great ho
nour and Joye. And whan the feaſt was paſſed Godfrey
retourned honourably to Boulton with his brethren haud
win and Eustace. The which ſchylde theyr age were made
noble knightes as theyr brother Godfrey. And thus they
arriued at Boulton in theyr company, where they wer
receiued with great Joye and honour. Than certayne t
me after theyr noble father Eustace Duke of Boulton an
cile of Boileyn diſceaſed in our lord. The which by his
grace & mercy haue him into his infinite glory with the
holy ſayntes and bleſſed company of heuen. And thus a
bode the ſaide Godfrey Duke of Boulton, as ſirſt bozne
of his brethren. And he was ſo good & ſo prue to right &
gouerne the welth publyke, and ſo paltryke & keeping his
countrey that he was beloued of euery perſon. Than be
gan ſoone after to approche the time that our Lorde God
had ordeyned for to put and reduce the realme of ſ holy
lande of Jeruſalem into the hādes of prue and noble god
frey of Boulton. In the which time choſen of god and by
his good enhortement ſhould be unged & congreged the
prue

Knight of the Swanne

princes of christendome for to passe ouer the sea and suffer
ne the sayth of god Iesu christe agaynst the misbeluings
paynims As it is wryten and recited in the cronicles and
saytes of the sayd Godfrey and his brethren. And altho
will of god whiche exalteth his freendes in this worlde
and after thei bodely death bringeth them to h life euer
lastinge of heauen. To the whiche bring vs, the father, h
sonne and the holy gost. Amen.

Thus endeth h life & myraculous hystory of the moste
noble and illustrious Helyas knight of the swanne w
the birth of h excellent knight Godfrey of Bouloy, one
of the nyne worthiest, and the last of the thre christen

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